There's a new guy in Miel's life! What's the Prince going to do?

Miel finds herself caught up in a rivalry with a fellow magician. She may be more powerful than the conceited Derris, but she loses their magic duel and he follows up by asking her out. Miel's heart belongs to Prince Radian though, even if they aren't an official couple yet. In fact, Miel's getting a little ticked that she only sees him in his non-princely alter ego of "Radi." When a ceremony is held to reinforce the giant magic barrier around the kingdom, Miel's determined to prove herself worthy of standing by the Prince's side on a permanent basis.

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ISBN 978-1-4012-2121-8

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2
THE LAPIS LAZULI CROWN
Natsuna Kawase

THE LAPIS LAZULI CROWN

Volume 2

By Natsuna Kawase

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CROWN
ラピスラズリの
王冠
EPISODE 4

I'M MIEL VIOLETTE, STUDENT OF THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MAGIC
IN ZALA, THE CAPITAL
THIS IS THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN, WHERE APPROXI-MATELY 20% OF THE POPULATION USES MAGIC.
YOUR GOAL WAS TO WORK AT THE PALACE, MIEL.
I NEVER KNEW
RUSTE
ROYAL PALACE TRAINING SCHOOL COURSE
COURSE SYLLABUS
TIMES
RIGHT BEFORE WE'RE BOTH ABOUT TO EMBARK ON THE NEXT STAGE OF OUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY
THAT'S NOT A NICE THING TO SAY ROSETTE
WHEN I SAW YOU WERE GETTING THE SAME SYLLABUS AS ME, I FIGURED IT HAD TO BE A JOKE.

GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN 2

MAGIC SCHOOLS

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MAGIC THAT MIEL AND ROSETTE GO TO IS THE BIGGEST MAGIC SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY BUT THAT BEING SAID, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAN ACTUALLY USE MAGIC IS SMALL. SO THE SCHOOLS ARE ONLY LOCATED IN BIG TOWNS WHERE DORMITORIES ARE PROVIDED FOR THE STUDENTS. ZARA IS AN AREA THAT HAS MAGIC VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AND MAGIC CRAM SCHOOLS AS WELL AS REGULAR MAGIC SCHOOLS. THIS AREA WAS FIRST SHOWCASED IN EPISODE ONE.

Are You Sure You Understand That, Miel?!
The training school is a part of the royal palace!
THIS COURSE IS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO STUDY SO THEY CAN TRAIN IN THE PALACE AS MAGIC USERS?!
THE FINAL EXAM WOULD BE TRICKY EVEN FOR SORCERERS WHO ALREADY WORK IN THE ROYAL PALACE!!
YES I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU RE TRYING TO SAY, ROSETTE
UNTIL RECENTLY, I GAVE UP ON MAGIC BECAUSE I WAS LOUSY AT IT SO FOR ME TO DO THIS NOW IS JUST FOOLHARDY THAT'S YOUR POINT ISN'T IT?
BUT I SIGNED UP FOR THIS COURSE BECAUSE I M DETERMINED TO GET TO THE PALACE VIA MAGIC
THAT'S RIGHT I WANT TO GO TO THE ROYAL PALACE
SO I CAN HELP RADI PRINCE RADIAN
PRINCE RADIAN IS KIND GENTLE, SOCIABLE AND VERY POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE
HE'S FIRST IN LINE TO THE THRONE OF THIS KINGDOM

HE PUT ON A SCHOOL UNIFORM, AND JUST AS IF HE WERE A FELLOW STUDENT
THE LAST TIME WE MET WAS IN THE SPRING
THE RADIO I MET IN TOWN HAD A DIFFERENT IMAGE, BUT EVERY TIME WE MET, HE ENCOURAGED ME
AND I BECAME HIS FRIEND ONE DAY WHEN HE WENT INTO TOWN, WITH HIS TRUE IDENTITY DISGUISED
SINCE THEN I'VE WANTED TO BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO HELP HIM TO BE BY HIS SIDE
..WE WALKED THROUGH THE SCHOOL GROUNDS, PRACTICING MAGIC AND TALKING
..I COULD BE WITH HIM MORE WE COULD ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TALK WHEN WE WANTED TO
IF HE REALLY WERE A STUDENT HERE
IF I REALLY WERE A STUDENT
...I WOULD'VE ASKED YOU TO BE MY GIRLFRIEND.

BLUSH...
.....
MIEL?
YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS AREN'T YOU? SERIOUS ENOUGH TO BROOD OVER IT.
I'm sorry
What's wrong? You're suddenly gone quiet
WELL, I CAN SAY WITH CONVICTION THAT I'VE GOT MY EYE ON THE PALACE
BUT THE TRUTH IS I'M NOT CONFIDENT
IT'D BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF I EXCELLED AT MAGIC LIKE YOU
SO I'M GONNA DEPEND ON YOU TO HELP GET ME THROUGH THE COURSE, ROSETTE!
EH?! Depend on me?!
WAIT! MIEL?!
HERE WE ARE! THIS IS THE CLASS-ROOM RIGHT?
GRAB
HUH? IT WON'T OPEN
RATTLE RATTLE
WE'RE EARLY, SO IT'S PROBABLY STILL LOCKED ...
SNAP

CREAK
IT'S OPEN.
AH
YOU MEAN YOU OPENED IT, WITH YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH.
Why'd you open it?
HHHH—ALL RIGHT—
RESTORE!!
Oh! it's fixed!
FLASH
EH?!
AH!
AH!

Hi
SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE!!
SO WE'RE ALL TAKING THE SAME COURSE!
THE RICH, ARISTOCRATIC HEAD OF THE CLASS.. ROSETTE'S RIVAL... And we're together...?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO TRAINING SCHOOL!
YOU CAN GET TO THE PALACE BY THE POWER OF YOUR FAMILY CONNECTIONS ALONE!!
Hrr
WELL, I PLAN TO GET THERE UNDER MY OWN POWER
Hey, hey!
WHY DO YOU THINK I'M MAINTAINING MY TOP STUDENT STATUS?
TO HARASS ME?

WELL, NEITHER DO I! AND WHEN I DO MY BEST AND STILL LOSE, IT'S FRUSTRATING!
Hmph!
So don't expect me to be moved or anything!
IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T WANNA LOSE AT SOMETHING I'M GOOD AT.
CONCEITED MUCH?
HAH?!
Haa
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, ROSETTE
BECAUSE I LOVE MAGIC.
AND ONCE THERE, I WANT TO LEARN MORE.
AND ME
I WANT MY OWN EFFORTS TO BE RECOGNIZED THAT'S HOW I WANNA GO TO THE PALACE.

WELL, GOOD FOR YOU...
AND BAD FOR ME IF YOU'D ONLY USE YOUR NOBILITY AS A FREE PASS TO GO TO THE PALACE, I'D BE THE TOP STUDENT AND GET RECOMMENDED TO GO THERE.
Easy easy
Hmm.
SO YOU'RE THROWING IN THE TOWEL ALREADY?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE!
AND WHY ARE YOU SITTING NEXT TO ME?!
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR A GUY TO WANT TO SIT NEXT TO THE GIRL HE LIKES
?!
COME ON WE'RE IN THE SAME COURSE THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS BE FRIENDS
I'M HAPPY WE'RE FINALLY IN THE SAME CLASS TO-GETHER.
Oh!

RUN
RUN
W-WELL, I'M NOT!!
KOFF
KOFF
ROSETTE, CALM DOWN!
RATTLE
EH? UH RIGHT
MIEL, YOU TOO! WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER! LET'S DO OUR BEST!
I'M SURE MY PRESENCE WILL ACT AS A STIMULUS FOR YOU TO MAKE PROGRESS.
FFOOK
AM I GETTING DRAGGED INTO THEIR RIVALRY...?!
What should I do?
CLANG
CLANG
RUN
Hey, was this door open?
RUN
BOTH OF YOU IF THERE'S EVER SOMETHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ABOUT IT!
MIEL, YOU CAN ASK ME, NOT HIM!

CLANG CLANG
COME ON, MIEL! LET'S GO TO LUNCH
OKAY.
Boy you're impatient!
SEIGLE! I FIGURED YOU'D TAKE THIS COURSE!
OF COURSE HE'S FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.
LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER!
Since we're in the same class and all
I'LL HELP YOU PUT YOUR THINGS AWAY!
Let me carry your books too!
Hurry up!
EH? WAIT A SECOND. I'M STILL TAKING NOTES
I SUPPOSE WITH SUPERIOR MAGIC ABILITY COMES POPULARITY
ALTHOUGH THE CHIFFONNADE FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE PALACE
Wow
All right I'll be right there
Hurry up!
I guess they're in this class too
UWAAA! THEY RE TREATING HIM LIKE HE'S A PRINCE

AHAHA!
it's funny because
WHO KNEW SEIGLE WAS SO BUMBLING?!
ROSETTE?
What?
AND THEN AT THE END WHEN HE'S STILL WRITING THOSE GIRLS MADE OFF WITH HIS NOTES..
Wait! I'm not done!
I WAS WATCHING HE WAS TAKING DOWN VIRTUALLY EVERY WORD THE TEACHER SAID EVEN THE IDLE CHAT!
I MEAN, IT'S GOOD TO BE SERIOUS, BUT I THINK HE'S TAKING IT A LITTLE FAR
Ahh, that's what not!
TO BE SURE
But it's not nice to laugh at him like this
ROSETTE...
DORK!
AHAHAHA!
BEFORE WHEN I SAW HIM WALKING DOWN THE HALLS EMPTY HANDED WHILE SOMEONE ELSE CARRIED HIS BOOKS I THOUGHT HE WAS BEING A JERK..
BUT NOW I'VE SEEN THE TRUTH!

IT'S A PRACTICAL EXERCISE THAT CAN BE SOLVED BY CONSIDERING THE LAWS OF MAGIC
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS PROBLEM?
FROM THEN ON IN THAT CLASS ...
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
Hmm... Maybe
They should sit next to each other
WHY AM I BETWEEN THEM?
Okay, what about the menu? Do you think it goes like this?
THE USUAL SEIGLE WAS THERE...
SIGHHHH ...THIS ISN'T WORKING OUT ...
SLUMP
Waaa!
Eh
Bam
Mumu
AS FOR ME ...
Stop fighting
It flies off if it wasn't supposed to, but
Bam!
Crash!

MAYBE THIS IS AN IMPOSSIBLE ENDEAVOR FOR ME
THE POINT'S DRIVEN HOME EVEN MORE BY HANGING OUT WITH ROSETTE AND SEIGLE
I CAN KEEP UP WITH THE CLASS, BUT I'M NO GOOD WITH THE PRACTICAL SKILLS
Sigh
I WISH I COULD MEET RAD!
SLAP
It's lunch-time!
ANYWAY, HURRY UP! I'M GETTING IN THE BREAD LINE SO I'LL SEE YOU THERE!
YEAH, GO AHEAD
I'll be along in a while.
Despite what you say I think Seagle is a good rival for you
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, ROSETTE
Huh?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SLUMP
I WONDERED WHAT THE YOUNGER SISTER OF A GRADUATE WHO BECAME A HIGH GRADE SORCERESS IN RECORD TIME WAS LIKE...AND SHE'S MIEL.
Aaaa
JUST WHAT I DIDN'T NEED RIGHT NOW
SORRY TO LET YOU DOWN.
I was expecting to hear that from day one
UH-HUH.
Hah! It is time
HEY MIEL!
IS IT TRUE YOU RE SARA VIOLETTE'S LITTLE SISTER?

HOW ABOUT IF I SHOW YOU MIEL?
SEIGLE!
THESE ARE SEAGLE'S FINGERS ON...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR SISTER DO MAGIC AT HOME A LITTLE MORE
AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED BEING AROUND SEIGLE? I MEAN, YOUR LEVEL AND HIS ARE LIKE NIGHT AND DAY...
IT'S LUNCH HOUR SO PERFECT TIMING COME ON
EVERYONE'S JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A FAMOUS SISTER.
I DUNNO. I THINK AT LEAST SOME OF THEIR ENVY STEMS FROM SEAGLE SITTING NEXT TO ME
UWAA!
Th-Thank you
I'M LOSING CONFI-DENCE
Sigh
IS IT FRUS-TRATING?

AS ROSETTE WOULD PROBABLY SAY
YAWN
YOU REALLY DO LIKE HER DON'T YOU SEIGLE?
CHUCKLE
I CAN HEAR HER SAYING THAT
YOU CAN KEEP YOUR GLOOMY FEELING BUT DON'T GIVE UP
IF SO USE THAT AS A JUMPING OFF POINT TO SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU CAN DO!
REASON?
I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER RIVAL
SHE REMINDED ME OF THE REASON I WORK SO HARD TO BE GOOD AT MAGIC
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I AGREED WITH THEM
BUT BEHIND MY BACK, THE KIDS WHISPERED THAT I COULDN'T AFFORD TO GET BAD GRADES BECAUSE THAT WOULD BRING SHAME TO MY FAMILY'S NAME.
EVEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL I HAD THE TOP GRADES IN THE CLASS

Hm? Ah, I know you. You often get the highest score.
WHAT ARE YOU SO FIRED UP ABOUT?
I'M ROSETTE TALE AND NEXT TIME, I'M NOT GONNA GET THE SECOND-BEST SCORE ON THE TEST!
YOU'RE SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE?!
BUT ROSETTE WAS DIFFERENT
W-WELL, HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL ..?!
!
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED MAGIC AND I ENJOY STUDYING IT!
Mmm, like you!
BECAUSE IT'S AGGRAVATING!
I LOVE MAGIC AND I HATE TO LOSE AT IT!
I see
I'VE GOT SOMEONE LIKE THAT, TOO
SOMEONE WHO GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO MY BEST AT MAGIC.
HUCKLE
HUCKLE
Rosette says the same thing!
IT WAS VEXING I LOVED MAGIC, BUT SHE THOUGHT I WAS JUST BEING COMPETITIVE.
EVER SINCE THEN I COULDN'T STAND THE IDEA OF LOSING

She reminded me of my passion
I GUESS HEARING THE SAME WORDS COMING OUT OF HER MOUTH AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME
MADE ME WANT TO STUDY TOGETHER WITH HER
BUT WHY WAIT 'TIL NOW TO TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL?
And the way she did it so matter-of-factly
TO BE HONEST I'M NOT CONFIDENT THAT I CAN GO TO TRAINING SCHOOL WITH HER AFTER GRADUATING FROM HERE.
THERE ARE A LOT OF FAMILY OBLIGATIONS
Coming from a good family has its share of drawbacks
HMMM I DIDN'T KNOW
OH, SHE WAS BEING HASSLED ABOUT HER SISTER, SO I RESCUED HER.
IT WASN'T THAT BIG A DEAL...
And it was SO NOT worth my while!
YOU'RE LATE! AND WHY IS SEIGLE WITH YOU?!
ROSETTE! SORRY I TOOK SO LONG DID YOU BUY LUNCH?
Ah!

WOMAN UP, MIEL! AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "I'LL SHOW THEM!"
IF IT'S PRACTICE YOU NEED, I'M HERE FOR YOU!
WHAT?
RIGHT?
SEIGLE HAS YOU PEGGED!
AHAHAHA
ALL RIGHT, MIEL.
ANY KIND OF MAGIC IS FINE. JUST SHOW US SOMETHING.
LET'S START WITH WHAT YOU'RE WEAK ON.
SEIGLE, YOU'RE STILL GONNA STICK AROUND?!
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT? I WANT TO HELP HER, TOO!
SIGH
Don't fight you guys
EITHER WAY, IT TAKES PRACTICE TO BE ABLE TO WIELD MAGIC.
THE POTENTIAL TO USE MAGIC IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH BLOODLINES, BUT SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH IT.
AND, THE MORE YOU PRACTICE, THE BETTER YOU GET AT IT. IN THEORY.

THE PERSON WHO GAVE ME A CHANCE TO GET TO THE PALACE THROUGH MAGIC ALSO GAVE ME THIS! ♡
I USE LAPIS LAZULI
TO BE EFFECTIVE, MAGIC NEEDS TO BE CHANNELED THROUGH STONES
STONES THAT WE KEEP ON OUR PERSONS OFTEN IN THE FORM OF ACCESSORIES.
HUH
The guy you mentioned before
RIGHT
RADI SAID THIS IS A GOOD LUCK CHARM...
TO HELP ME USE MAGIC WELL.
I'M LOUSY AT CONTROL-LING MAGIC
SO I NEVER USED THIS KIND OF STONE IN THE PAST FOR FEAR OF SHATTERING IT BUT...
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
IN FACT, WITH THE KIND OF POWER THAT YOU'RE CHANNELING, THIS STONE IS PERFECT

YOU'RE LUCKY, MIEL.
EH? BUT THAT'S
RIGHT? ♡ OKAY, I'M GONNA GO
DON'T TELL HER, ROSETTE.
SO AFTER HE GAVE ME HIS "BLESSING", I'VE BEEN USING IT. ♡
THAT'S RIGHT I'VE GOT THIS
I'VE GOTTA DO MY BEST!
WIND!
MUMM
FWISH
FWOOSH
THE HARDNESS OF THE STONES ONLY DETERMINES THE AMOUNT OF MAGIC THAT CAN BE USED.
SEIGLE/ STONES DON'T CHANNEL MAGIC BY "KINDS" OF POWER.
HE PROBABLY TOLD HER THAT TO MAKE HER LESS SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT HER WEAKNESS
SEEMS HER FRIEND WAS JUST BEING KIND

IN A WAY, HE USED "MAGIC WORDS"
SO MIEL COULD DO HER BEST
... I SEE ..
HEY, DID YOU GUYS SEE THAT?!
UH-HUH! NOW, LITTLE BY LITTLE, TRY TO ADD IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF MAGIC TO MAKE COMPLEX MAGIC!
FOR EXAMPLE
CHIK
FLOWERS, DANCE!
FOO

HELLO,

LONG TIME NO SEE.

I M NATSUNA KAWASE.

THIS IS VOLUME 2 THANK YOU FOR GETTING THIS MY FIFTH PUBLISHED VOLUME.

THIS IS THE FINAL VOLUME OF "THE LAPIS LAZULI CROWN" (ONLY TWO VOLUMES?) THIS ONE ONLY CONTAINS LAPIS LAZULI STORIES. QUITE A BIT OF TIME ELAPSES BETWEEN EACH EPISODE THIS TIME AROUND SO YOUR IMAGINATION WILL HAVE TO FILL IN A FEW BLANKS HERE AND THERE

THIS TIME, THERE ARE 9 1/4 PAGE COLUMNS THE MOST I'VE HAD SO FAR. I THINK I LL USE THE SPACE AS I DID LAST VOLUME TO INTRODUCE CHARACTERS AND TALK ABOUT EACH EPISODE

I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS VOLUME TO THE END'

FWOOO

THIS IS THE KIND OF MAGIC I'M GOOD AT'

HOW ABOUT YOU, ROSETTE?' WHAT'S YOUR SPECIALTY?

I COULD SHOW YOU..

BUT I M NOT RESPONSIBLE IF YOU FEEL DEPRESSED AFTERWARDS

THRILL ME'

I'M ESPECIALLY GOOD AT BANISHING MAGIC

VANISH!
FLASH
It's all gone!
What'd I bother making it for?
I WARNED YOU!
Hmph.
OKAY LET'S START NEIL'S INTENSIVE TRAINING
WHAT'S WITH HIM NOW?
EARTH!
CLANG
CLANG

SEIGLE
122
123
ROSETTE?!
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE? I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOME-THING

ARE YOU REVIEWING TODAY'S LESSON?
GO AHEAD.
YOU'RE FOREVER TAKING NOTES IN CLASS WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
THAT'S NOT IT, IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU RESEARCHING SOMETHING THE TEACHER SAID IN SOME OFF THE CUFF REMARK?
EVERY DAY?
AT A TABLE WAY IN THE BACK, WHERE NO ONE'LL NOTICE YOU?
WHY DO YOU DO THAT HERE EVERY DAY?
STUDYING THE MINUTIAE OF MAGIC IS FUN!
I JOT DOWN EVERYTHING THAT I'M INTERESTED IN AND THEN RESEARCH IT LATER. LIKE I'M DOING NOW
It's like I'm absorbing knowledge like a sponge!
THEN HE'S NOT REALLY STUDYING —NOT FOR THE CLASS, ANYWAY

SIGHHH
I ALWAYS COME TO THE LIBRARY AFTER CLASS AND ONE DAY I SPOTTED YOU WAY BACK HERE. WELL IT MADE ME WONDER...
Sure
WHY COME TO THE SCHOOL LIBRARY WHEN YOU MOST LIKELY HAVE A LIBRARY OF THIS SIZE AT HOME?
I THOUGHT NOBODY WOULD BOTHER ME IF I SAT WAY IN THE BACK HERE
BUT IF YOU KNEW WAY BEFORE, WHY ASK ME ABOUT IT NOW?
I GUESS I SUDDENLY HAD THE URGE TO ASK YOU
Mmm
I REALIZED THAT MAYBE WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT. THAT I MISJUDGED YOU
SO I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE REAL YOU
MIS-JUDGED?
TRUE, MY HOUSE HAS TONS OF BOOKS
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE ON HAND THERE WHO'S EAGER TO FETCH THE BOOKS FOR ME OR WHATEVER. HERE'S WHERE I CAN RELAX.
Not that I mind so much, but

BESIDES, THE PERIOD OF TIME I CAN BE AT SCHOOL IS LIMITED
I WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
CORNY, I KNOW.
Oh
NO I THINK YOU RE A ROMANTICIST
I thought so this afternoon, too
CERTAINLY WE VE ONLY GOT ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE GRADUATION
THINKING OF IT THAT WAY, YOU RE RIGHT TIME IS PRECIOUS
Roman
I've gotta explore the library more
I KNOW! ROSETTE WHY DON'T WE STUDY HERE TOGETHER?
THIS IS A GREAT SECTION TO SIT IN LOADS OF OLD, INTERESTING BOOKS IN THE SURROUND-ING SHELVES.
Sitting in a secret spot like this
Eh?
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BE ALONE...
THIS IS THE ONLY TIME I'LL GET .
...TO READ THESE BOOKS IN THIS PLACE

ROSETTE TALE (17)

MIEL'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND
A SERIOUS HELPFUL HONOR STUDENT SHE'S A HARD WORKER AND IS STRONG-WILLED BUT HAS A FRAGILE BODY ROSETTE LIVES IN THE SAME AREA AS MIEL AND IS THE ONLY MAGIC USER IN HER FAMILY SHE'S THE OPPOSITE OF MIEL BUT WAS VERY EASY TO DRAW I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HER HEAD AS BEING SPHERICAL WHILE DRAWING HER

I WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOU... ANYWAY?

SOMEONE WHO APPRECIATES THE BOOKS THAT I DO IS CERTAINLY WELCOME TO SIT AT MY TABLE

BUT YOU FOUND ME ONLY BY LOOKING AT THE BOOKS IN THESE NEARBY SHELVES, RIGHT?

...YOU'RE TALKING LIKE THAT AGAIN?!

BLUSH

I WAS SERIOUS

MAYBE I'LL STUDY HERE ONCE IN A WHILE, IF I FEEL LIKE IT!

CLANG
CLANG
HI ROSETTE HI. CAN I SIT HERE?
MIEL
SUIT YOUR SELF
I'm sure if I said no you'd sit there anyway
ARE YOU GOING TO THE CAFETERIA FOR LUNCH? ME TOO! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
You guys are slow
FINE, LAST ONE THERE BUYS THE SANDWICHES!
PARTNER UP FOR PRACTICE? PLEASE? YOU WON'T BE SORRY!
please!
FINE!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO MIND SEIGLE THESE DAYS, ROSETTE
EH?
WELL, HE'S NOT ALWAYS A JERK.
MMM GOOD
WHAT'S GOOD ..?
AH!

I borrowed them after class
I FORGOT TO GIVE SEIGLE HIS NOTES BACK!
I'LL GIVE 'EM BACK
EH?
I THINK HE'LL BE AT THE LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL AND I'M GOING THERE TO STUDY ANYWAY, SO—
OH
IN THAT CASE, HERE THANKS.
I WONDER HOW YOU KNOW THAT ABOUT HIM...
LUCKY SEAGLE, GETTING TO STUDY TOGETHER WITH THE GIRL HE LIKES...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!
I JUST HAPPEN TO SEE HIM THERE FROM TIME TO TIME...
MAKES ME THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH I WANT TO WORK HARD SO I CAN GO TO RAD!
I'm envious!
RECENTLY SEIGLE'S GROUPIES SEEM TO BE GETTING SCARIER
DOES ROSETTE NOTICE THEM?

←1120
1121
FOO
SEIGLE, ARE YOU HERE?
EH?!
OH, ROSETTE. YOU WANTED TO TALK TO SEIGLE?
I THOUGHT NO ONE ELSE KNEW HE WAS HERE

WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH? ROSETTE?
SEIGLE
SO NOBODY ELSE KNOWS YOU SIT BACK HERE HUH?
EH...? RIGHT, NO ONE DID BUT...
WHY...?
YOU TRY HARD, BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT HIM
SEIGLE'S NOT ONLY IN IT FOR HIMSELF HE ALSO HAS HIS FAMILY TO THINK ABOUT SO HE CAN'T LOSE
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU COMPETE HE'LL GET TO THE ROYAL PALACE BEFORE YOU
HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED THE TRAINING SCHOOL HIS GRADES AND HIS LINEAGE ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET HIM THERE
IS THAT WHAT HE'S PLANNING AFTER ALL?
BUT, WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO INFORM ME ABOUT IT?

Hmm
She's a little unexpectedly slow on the uptake
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE IT EASY WITH TEASING ROSETTE.
OH, NEVER MIND! SPARE ME ANOTHER LIE!
MIEL SAYS THANK YOU FOR THE NOTES
SQUEEZE
BYE!
DASH
HUH? ROSETTE?
I thought she went to the library
ROSETTE?!
Huff Huff
Pant Pant
WHAT AM I DOING?
JUST RUNNING AWAY WINDED ME
Have to catch my breath

ROSETTE!
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?! STAY AWAY!
NEIN
W
FWOOO
WIND, RISE!
ROSETTE!
Hey
CALM DOWN...
KRANG
FWOOO
Kuff Kuff
ROSETTE, BEHIND YOU!

ROARRR
WIND
HAL--
FWISH
BARRIER!

FLASH
RINGG...
CLATTER
ROSETTE, ARE YOU OKAY?!
—YEAH, THANKS.
WHUMP
SEIGLE I WAS SURPRISED WHEN YOU JUST RUSHED OUT HERE WITHOUT USING MAGIC!
Are you all right?!
I'm just happy it worked
THEN I THREW UP A BARRIER WITHOUT THINKING IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT FORGETTING IT'S MY WEAKNESS!
CLANK
YOU SAVED US, MIEL

THAT I'M SERIOUS ABOUT STUDYING SO I CAN KEEP STUDYING
...WHICH IS WHY I CAN'T JUST LET YOU BE HEAD OF THE CLASS I NEED TO CONVINCE MY FAMILY
THAT
AND I DO INTEND TO GO TO TRAINING SCHOOL.
I'm obviously not good at being stealthy
Uh
WHY DID YOU COME AFTER ME?!
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I DID WANNA KEEP MY LIBRARY PLACE SECRET. BUT IT SEEMS I WAS FOLLOWED TODAY!
BUT THEN AT THIS SCHOOL, AT LEAST...
MAYBE MY HOPE WON'T COME TO FRUITION...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO GO AFTER WHAT YOU WANT ROSETTE.
THAT'S WHY I HOPE WE CAN GO TO TRAINING SCHOOL TOGETHER... COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER... TALK TOGETHER...
...I WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH THE GIRL THAT I LIKE... YOU, ROSETTE.

WELL...
IF YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME THEN TRY TO MAKE YOUR "HOPE" COME TRUE
IT'D BE BORING FOR ME WITHOUT A RIVAL, TOO.
GRAB
Waaa
GYAAA
THANK YOU!
I'LL GO TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL! I'LL SHOW YOU!
AHAHAHA
LET ME GO!
GOOD FOR YOU, SEIGLE
KYAAA! MIEL! DON'T JUST STAND THERE! HELP ME!
I'VE GOT TO DO MY BEST, TOO...

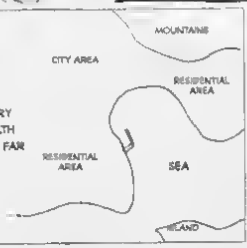
CRUNCH
Mmm
SQUEEZE
I'M NOT GONNA THINK ABOUT WHAT'S IMPOSSIBLE OR POSSIBLE ANYMORE I'LL JUST TRY MY BEST TO KEEP UP WITH YOU GUYS
WHAT I'M AIMING FOR IS THE DAY I CAN BECOME GOOD ENOUGH TO BE BY RADI'S SIDE..
I'M LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH GREAT FRIENDS!
I'll return this to its proper place
THE THREE OF US...?
EH?
EH?
Ahahaha!
Aaaah! Stand aside! I'll fix it for you!
LET'S AIM TO GET INTO THE PALACE TO-GETHER!

THE LAPIS LAZULI CROWN
ラピスラズリの王冠
EPISODE 5

GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN 3

SARACEL

THE SECOND MAJOR CITY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY NEAR BOTH THE SEA AND MOUNTAINS. THIS TOWN HAS MANY HEALTH RESORTS AND VILLAS. IT'S A QUIET POPULAR TOWN AND NOT SO FAR FROM ZALA.



CRASSSHH
SHAKE
I WIN.
BADOOOM
CRACKLE
EH? FROM ABOVE?!
WAH!
FWISH
YOUNG MAN! CERTAINLY, THIS TAKES THE FORM OF A MATCH, BUT IT'S NOT A MATTER OF VICTORY OR DEFEAT!
Buzz
Buzz
THIS IS A TEST OF YOUR PRACTICAL SKILLS IN THE AREA OF MAGICAL SPEED NOW HURRY UP AND HELP YOUR PARTNER!
FLASH
AHHH... SORRY, ARE YOU OKAY?
Oops! Almost forgot

I'M GONNA WIN SO I CAN GO TO THE PALACE!!
?!
GASP
FWISH
FWOOOSH
YOUR STRENGTH IS INCREDIBLE — AND YOU'VE GOT SPIRIT TOO!
NOT BAD FOR SOMEONE SETTING OUT TO BE A PALACE SORCERER!
.....

I like you!!
I'M DERRIS DATT I'M FROM SARACEL
GO OUT WITH ME, MIEL!
WHA--?! MY STRENGTH ?!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?
MIEL VIO-LETTE!!
EHHHH?!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET HIT ON WHILE TAKING THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION TO THE ROYAL TRAINING SCHOOL
MOST PEOPLE GET TURNED OFF WHEN THEY FIND OUT THAT I'M AS STRONG AS AN OX
BESIDES, THE FACT THAT TESTS AREN'T PARTICULARLY ROMANTIC I'VE NEVER BEEN A POPULAR GIRL
AND THE ONE WHO SAID I'D GET BETTER AT MY WEAKNESS MAGIC
RADI'S BEEN THE ONLY PERSON WHO GETS A KICK OUT OF MY STRENGTH

SARA!
THE TRAINING SCHOOL IS PART OF THE PALACE
SO IT'S A SNAP TO WORK THERE ONCE YOU'RE DONE
MY BIG SISTER SARA IS A PART TIME LECTURER AT THE PALACE.
I WANT RADI'S SEAL OF APPROVAL!
I WANT RADI TO TELL ME HE LOVES ME, TOO!
I'M ONLY TRYING TO GET TO THE PALACE BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP RADI. I MEAN, PRINCE RADIAN!
IN FACT IT'S CALLED A SCHOOL, BUT IT'S REALLY MORE OF A "HANDS-ON" PLACE OF LEARNING WHERE YOU GET TO HELP WITH REAL WORK.
Then after you graduate you'll be given a post.
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT BOY YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT, DERRIS WAS EXTREMELY FAST?
YEEPS, I HAVE TO ADMIT.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT SEVERAL OFFICES WANT HIM.
HE'S GOT A PROMISING FUTURE. WHY DON'T YOU DATE HIM?
How many times do I have to tell you?! I love Radi!
YOU PASSED THE TEST, DIDN'T YOU? SO WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT?

Especially Miel
WHATEVER THE POST, I'M HAPPY THAT ALL THREE OF US GOT ACCEPTED
MIEL!!
ROSETTE!
I HEARD YOU MADE A STRONG IMPRESSION AT THE ENTRANCE EXAM.
SO YOU'RE STARTING OUT WITH THE PRACTICING DUTY POST ME..? I THOUGHT AS MUCH. THERE'S A LOT OF TRAINING INVOLVED
WHERE ARE THEY PLACING YOU?
OH! WE'RE ALMOST THE SAME!
It must be fate!
Gyaaa! Back off! I barely know you!
AH! HE'S THE ONE SHE TESTED WITH.
I'M ROSETTE TALE.
I'M SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.
NO WAY AM I GONNA BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND!!
MY HOMETOWN'S SOUTHERN SARACEL.
I'M DERRIS DATT MIEL'S SOON-TO-BE BOYFRIEND
Good to meet you.
ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS?

YEAH. ESPECIALLY ARISTOCRATIC WIZARDS. THEY THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE
Hahaha! Can't argue with you
ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH
CLANG
CLANG
YOU HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST ARISTOCRATS?
CHIFFONNADE AN ARISTOCRAT
SEIGLE, YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE PRACTICING CORPS?!
Eh?
Even though you're good at old magic...
ROSETTE AND I ARE ASSIGNED TO THE RESEARCH WING.
See you later
MIEL, WE'VE GOTTA GO
CLANG
CLANG
I ASKED TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE RESEARCH WING
Eh...?
JUST TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, I'M TECHNICALLY A MEMBER OF THE ARISTOCRACY MYSELF
Although you wouldn't know it by our treatment sometimes

HE'S A FRIEND WHOM I RESPECT!
What's your problem?!
YOU DON'T SAY?
HE GOT TO PICK BECAUSE OF MERIT, NOT BLOODLINE!
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH HIM?
YEAH, YOU DON'T SEEM ANYTHING LIKE AN ARISTOCRAT, SO I DON'T CARE.
BUT YOUR FRIEND'S GOT A FAMOUS FAMILY, SO NATURALLY HE GETS TO PICK WHERE HE WANTS TO GO!
THEN WHY NOT GO OUT WITH ME, MIEL?
N-O! I'M ALREADY IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE!
YEAH? WHO IS HE? A BETTER CATCH THAN ME?
You sure you're not just saying that?
I HAVE NO FONDNESS FOR PRINCES EITHER.
.....
GIVE IT UP.
HE CERTAINLY IS! HE'S PRINCE RADIAN!
Got a problem with him, too?!

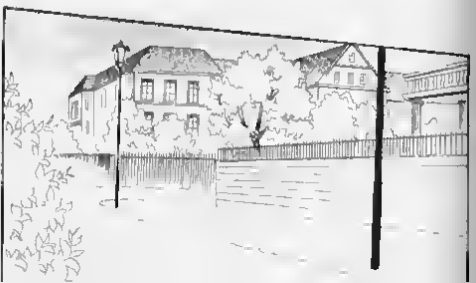
FWOOO
BECAUSE OF YOUR HIGH MOTOR SKILL SCORES IN THE ADMISSIONS TEST YOU TWO TRAINEES HAVE BEEN SELECTED
I'M SIEG BASEL WITH THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT AND I'LL BE YOUR SUPERVISOR TODAY
EH?!
It's Sieg!
AREN'T YOU THE PRINCE'S PERSONAL SORCERER?!
YES THE PRINCE IS IN CHARGE OF THE BARRIER BUREAU
REALLY?! THEN MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE I'LL RUN INTO RADI?!
Kyaaa
AND I HAVE NO FONDNESS FOR YOU!
WHY DID I HAVE TO BE PAIRED UP WITH HIM?!
DIDN'T THEY HAVE ANYONE ELSE?
SOMEBODY'S COMING
FWOOO

TODAY, I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU ASSIST ON A PROJECT IN TOWN.
THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED ATTACKS CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE CRIME PREVENTION BARRIER OF A MANSION IN THE NORTH WARD.
WE'RE GOING TO INVESTIGATE AND REPAIR.
WE'LL GET MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ONCE WE GET THERE
Sigh
IT REMINDS ME OF THE CASE THAT FIRST BROUGHT RADI AND SIEG TO MY TOWN
WHAT WE'RE WORKING FOR THE PRINCE'S SUBORDINATE?
AND AT AN ARISTOCRAT'S MANSION YET? I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS JOB.
STOP THINKING YOU CAN COMPETE WITH THE PRINCE!
AMAZING! YOU MIGHT BE AS PHYSICALLY STRONG AS THEIR DAD!
GYAAA
GYAAA
PUSH
PUSH
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT
YOU TWO LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME.
WELL, I'M HAPPY TO GET THE CHANCE TO BE OF USE.
MMM. AT LEAST YOU AND I ARE TOGETHER AND EVEN IF THE PRINCE'S RETAINER IS OUR OVERSEER IT'LL BE ME WHO'S NEXT TO YOU.

ANA.
ANA.
R-RADI-?!
ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS?
LONG TIME NO SEE, MIEL! YOU ACTUALLY MADE IT TO THE PALACE! GREAT JOB!
HERE'S THE INFORMATION
I HAD MIEL'S COOPERATION ONCE WITH AN INVESTIGATION IN TOWN
I'M RADI WITH THE BARRIER BUREAU NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'll be going now!
AH
EH?
THE THING OF IT IS I DON'T REALLY LIKE THE NOBILITY OR THE PRINCE
I HOPE I CAN GET YOU TO JOIN MY OFFICE FULL-TIME
I'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU, DERRIS.
Huh
I don't know if I'd call that cooperation

TOP STUDENT IN HIS CLASS AND SON OF A FAMILY OF ARISTOCRATIC SORCERERS PUTS ON A SHOW OF BEING ARROGANT BUT IS ACTUALLY WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO STRONG-WILLED GIRLS. AT HEART, HE'S THE CALM, QUIET TYPE THOUGH, SO EVEN WHEN HE ACTS HIGH AND-MIGHTY, NO ONE REALLY HOLDS IT AGAINST HIM. HE DOES EVERYTHING AT HIS OWN PACE. BEFORE I GOT TO THE DRAWING STAGE I PLANNED TO MAKE HIM MORE OF A NAUGHTY TYPE, BUT THE SERENE ASPECT OF HIS CHARACTER CAME OUT STRONGER IN THE END. I LIKE THAT HE ENJOYS STUDYING. IT MAKES ME WANNA STUDY MYSELF, AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO TESTS

After he invited you...
DERRIS, HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT?!
GRAB
EH .? HE WAS JUST BEING POLITE!
BESIDES, I HATE THE THOUGHT OF YOU BEING IN LOVE WITH THE PRINCE
How could I work with him being my boss..?
RADI, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IDLE CHITCHAT! LET'S GO!
GYAAA! HE'S SAYING THAT IN FRONT OF THE MAN HIMSELF...



GROANN
He said we looked like we were having fun together
EVEN THOUGH I'M THRILLED I GOT TO MEET RADI-
I'M BOTHERED BY HOW HE'LL TAKE DERRIS'S COMMENTS
HE DOESN'T NOTICE THAT RADI IS REALLY PRINCE RADIAN?!
ONLY THE HAIRSTYLE IS DIFFERENT?! ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T GET IT AT FIRST, EITHER
"I...is the collar high enough...?"
THERE ARE MORE MAGICIANS IN ZALA THAN IN ANY OTHER CITY SO THE CRIME RATE IS HIGHER
THIS IS THE KIND OF TOWN IT IS!
Rrrr
MUST BE NICE BEING ABLE TO GET THE PALACE TO CHECK YOUR SECURITY FOR YOU
ARISTOCRATS IN ZALA PUT UP EXTRA STRENGTH BARRIERS HUH?
And I'm sure he never mentioned that the prince would be here in person with the information
WHAT, IS HE TRYING TO SOUND LIKE AN EXPERT?!
AH. BUT THERE'S A WEAK SPOT IN THIS AREA, WHERE THE BARRIER'S BROKEN
HUH. POWERFUL SHIELDING FOUR PLATES

IT CAN'T BE FIXED?
THIS RING IS EFFECTIVELY DEAD.
WANNA GIVE IT A SHOT?
IMPRES-SIVE.
GOOD EYE
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW
NO I'LL SHOW HIM HOW
DON'T TELL ME YOU LIKE DERRIS?!
HE CAN BE COUNTED ON AND HAS GOOD INSTINCTS WHEN IT COMES TO MAGIC
Why not?
IN THAT CASE, I MIGHT AS WELL TEACH MIEL HOW TO MEND ANOTHER AREA.
MIGHT AS WELL?! RADI?!

BUT HE'S EXTREMELY RUDE!
YOU ATTRACT INTERESTING PEOPLE LIKE A MAGNET, MIEL!
I'M GLAD HE'S UPFRONT
HOW CAN RADI SAY THAT KNOWING HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM?!
OF COURSE, I EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU, TOO.
All right.
THIS AREA'S WEAKENED SO LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T BOLSTER IT SOME.
HE SEEMS FAR AWAY.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT IN THE GUISE OF THE PRINCE, HE'S ACTING LIKE PRINCE RADIAN

Right
IMAGINE THE WALL AND THEN LET JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MAGIC FLOW THROUGH TO STRENGTHEN THE BARRIER.
FWOOO
RAD! WE'RE GOING TO CONNECT THE RING, SO COME ON!
MIEL
EH? ALL RIGHT
HUMMMMM
MMM
OKAY, MIEL WHEN THE COLOR CHANGES, YOU CAN STOP
GOT IT!
I'VE GOTTA MAKE A BEST EFFORT TO BE USEFUL TO THE PRINCE!!
HUMMMM

HEY, MIEL! HOW'S IT GOING?
I'm doing well, thanks for asking!
DERRIS!
Rrrr
AH! I PUT TOO MUCH POWER INTO IT!
KRAK
MIEL!!
FWASH
WHOOMP

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE! DID YOU SEAL IT UP RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL! WHEN YOU'RE ADDING MORE POWER TO BARRIERS, THEY BECOME LIKE BALLOONS
GOT IT. THANKS
SHOOT. LOOKS LIKE I'VE STILL GOT A WAYS TO GO BEFORE I CAN BE OF ANY USE.
.....
All right!
THE NEXT ONE, THERE'LL BE NO MIS-TAKES!

UNTIL RECENTLY, I DIDN'T
BUT THANKS TO SOMEONE S INFLUENCE
HUH POSITIVE ATTITUDE GOOD TO HAVE
PRINCE RADIAN?
WOULD THAT BE
NO, I DON'T!
I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE
COULD FEEL THE SAME WAY THAT YOU DO ABOUT HIM?
YOU REALLY THINK A GUY YOU CAN'T EVEN GET NEAR
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THE GUY, HE S A PRINCE

I'LL USE EVERY OTHER COLUMN TO TALK ABOUT THE EPISODES THEMSELVES.

EPISODE FOUR FOCUSES ON ROSETTE AND SEAGLE. IT CONTINUES FROM EPISODE THREE AT SCHOOL, AND WAS FUN TO DRAW I LOVE SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS

AFTER I FINISHED ALL THE BREAKDOWNS FOR THIS EPISODE I REALIZED THAT I FORGOT TO LEAVE A 1/4 COLUMN SPACE HERE SO I HAD TO REDRAW THE PAGE..

I WAS A LITTLE PEEVED (EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MY OWN FAULT FOR NOT DOUBLE CHECKING)

ANYWAY I MADE EPISODE FOUR WITH THE INTENTION OF SETTING ROSETTE AND SEAGLE UP AS A COUPLE SO THEY COULD BE USED IN FUTURE EPISODES TOGETHER. BUT ALAS DUE TO PAGE CONSTRAINTS I HAD TO CUT OUT THEIR FUTURE "PAGE TIME" TOGETHER...

OH, WELL. I M GLAD I GOT THE CHANCE TO HAVE THEM SHINE IN EPISODE FOUR, AT LEAST

BUT SO WHAT?!

NO MATTER HOW HE FEELS, WHAT'S WRONG WITH WANTING TO BE OF SERVICE TO HIM?!

TRANSFER YOUR FEELINGS OVER TO ME

I'LL PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND RETURN YOUR FEELINGS IN FULL.

THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE NOBILITY MAY TALK A GOOD GAME BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, THEY'RE UNABLE TO EMPATHIZE WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE THEIR OWN CIRCLE

DERRIS?

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD
YES HE'S HITTING ON MIEL
NEVER MIND ME DID YOU SEE DERRIS JUST NOW?
Oh, really?
I'M GOING TO HAVE HIM HELP REINFORCE THE BARRIER OF THE HOUSE OVER THERE
LET ME OBSERVE DERRIS FOR THE NEXT SEGMENT
OUR DEPARTMENT COULD REALLY USE A PERSON OF HIS CALIBER.
That's what I said!
HE TRULY DOES HAVE IMPECCABLE INSTINCTS
AFTER HER MAGIC FAILED, HE TOOK IT OVER AND SAFELY BROUGHT THE TASK TO COMPLETION.
Ah, yes I saw
Not that!
HIS POWER!

I'LL LEAVE MIEL IN YOUR HANDS
TRY THAT OTHER THING WITH HER, TOO!
I'D LAY ODDS IT'S BECAUSE HE WANTED TO GET DERRIS AWAY FROM YOU...
WELL, IT IS UNUSUAL FOR RADI TO SHOW SUCH A PERSONAL INTEREST IN ONE OF OUR POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES
SO RADI WANTS TO BE WITH DERRIS...?
THEN IT'S TRUE?! BUT WHY?!
AND ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO OVER HERE
BUT FIRST THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CONFIRM WITH YOU.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO LEAVE THEM ALONE?!
DERRIS HATES THE PRINCE! WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF RADI'S "IDENTITY" GETS EXPOSED?!
OH, RADI'S GOOD AT HOODWINKING PEOPLE WITH DISGUISES.

THIS IS A PLATE, OR RING USED TO FOCUS THE POWER OF THE BARRIER.
TRY TO SEND MAGIC CURRENT INTO IT JUST AS YOU WERE DOING WITH THE BARRIER BEFORE
FWOOP
WHOA! IT'S CHANGING COLORS
YES.
HUMMM
FLASH
CAN YOU HOLD ON TO IT?
HUMMM
LIKE THIS?
FWOOO
BUT SHE CAN STILL HOLD IT
THREW ME OFF BALANCE FOR A SECOND THERE! BOY, IT'S HEAVY
THE MORE MAGIC YOU PUT INTO IT, THE HEAVIER IT GETS
THAT'S WHY, WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH A LOT OF POWER, PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS ESSENTIAL.
?!
UWAAA! IT'S SUDDENLY HEAVY! WHAT'S WITH THIS THING?!
FWISH

I'M EXPECTING A LOT FROM YOU, TOO DERRIS
FLASH
OH! WONDERFUL! JUST LIKE I SHOWED YOU! YOU'RE A FAST LEARNER!
"TOO"?
CLAP CLAP CLAP
GLEAM
HE'LL SHE'S GOT AN IMMEASURABLE AMOUNT OF MAGIC POWER
AND THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO USE IT
IF SHE CAN JUST LEARN TECHNIQUE, I THINK SHE'LL BE A TREMENDOUS ASSET TO US
I KNEW THAT, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED IT TO GET THIS HEAVY...
THAT'S BECAUSE IT CONTAINS DIAMONDS WITH A SOLIDITY FACTOR OF 10 SO IT'S ABLE TO HARNESS A GREAT DEAL OF MAGIC POWE...
Sorry, I don't control power like that
EH
CHIP
JUST AS RAD! PREDICTED
AFTER WATCHING MIEL DO MAGIC UP TO NOW...

I REALLY WANT YOU AT THE BARRIER BUREAU.
IT'S IMPORTANT WORK YOU'D BE DOING YOUR COUNTRY A FAVOR.
HOW CAN YOU BE ASKING AGAIN AFTER I SAID I HATED THE IDEA NOT MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR AGO?!
BECAUSE I NEED SOMEONE WITH YOUR SUPERIOR SKILLS
AREN'T YOU A MEMBER OF THE NOBILITY?!
CLOSE ENOUGH, I GUESS.
WELL, THE IMPORTANT WORK ALWAYS GOES TO THE ARISTO-CRATS, DOESN'T IT?
SO WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SELL ME?
DERRIS, YOU'RE FROM THE SOUTH, AREN'T YOU?
DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE LESS TALENT THAN ARISTO-CRATIC MAGICIANS?
OF COURSE NOT!

HEAPING ME WITH CHEAP PRAISE MAKES ME TRUST YOU EVEN LESS!
Hmph!
Ah
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU CAME TO THE PALACE FOR?
THEN MAKE USE OF YOUR GIFTS!
PAT
PAT
I CAN IMAGINE HOW HARD IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR HIM TO GET HERE FROM THERE.
ARISTOCRATIC MAGIC USERS WIELD A LOT OF POWER IN THE SOUTH.
CHFF
CHFF
DERRIS!
STOP!
DASH

No!
DON'T STEP THERE!
EH?
TAK
SEAL
FSSST
CHEF

FLOOSH
RADI?!
FWOOO
SHUDDER
OWWW... I COULDN'T BLOCK MORE THAN HALF OF IT
IT WAS A BARRIER BUSTING TRAP ACTIVATED BY A FOOT-STEP
IT WASN'T HERE WHEN WE JUST REIN-FORCED THE BARRIER SO WHEN IT WAS SET UP?
HUFF
NEVER MIND THAT, WHAT ABOUT YOUR HAND?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

IT DIDN'T TOUCH ME! EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE ONE WHO STEPPED ON IT.
WERE YOU HURT?
YEAH. I'LL BE FINE. SIEG'S GOOD WITH HEALING MAGIC.
Mm?
What were you thinking?!
DON'T BE RECKLESS ESPECIALLY TO COVER FOR MY CARELESSNESS! YOU'RE AN ARISTOCRAT REMEMBER?!
Rrrr
YOU THINK I WEIGH MY SOCIAL STATUS BEFORE PROTECTING SOMEONE?
WOULD YOU, DERRIS?
THAT'S YOUR BIAS TALKING!
What does being an aristocrat have to do with anything?!
I...I.
!

RAD! THE BOOBY TRAP IS CONNECTED.
...TO SOMEONE OVER THERE!
EH?
HE JUST MOVED TO SAVE AN ARISTOCRAT
After all he said about us
SIGREL
11/DASH
WHOOOOM
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
IS THAT... DERRIS?
SIEG! MIEL! CATCH THESE GUYS!
THEY'RE DISRUPTORS!
TING
NGGGN

HUMAN
STOP THEM FROM MOVING, DERRIS!
RESTRAIN!
EH?!
WHOOM
Waaa
WHOOM
WHOOM
HALT!
ONE'S GETTING AWAY!
LIGHT!
FLASHHH
Argh!
BLIND-ING...

NICE, MIEL!
HYAAA!
WHOMP
SORCERERS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO RELY ON MAGIC, Y'KNOW!
WHA--
UWAAA!
Hah. Nice work
Rrrr
THOSE TWO MAKE A GOOD COMBINATION
I COULD'VE TAKEN THAT GUY DOWN
Stupid Dorris
Well you stopped him first with your flashbulb effect. Just like during the entry exam
Kyaaa! Dorris you did it!!
SQUEEZE
RADI, MAKING A FIST WILL ONLY BE MORE PAINFUL
I'll heal it for you

GASP
GRIN
GREAT JOB BOTH OF YOU
THANK YOU FOR CATCHING THE CRIMINALS WHO WERE TARGETING AN ARISTOCRAT'S HOUSE.
I WASN'T TRYING TO SAVE THAT! I HATE THE ARISTOCRACY AND THE PRINCE!!
ALL THEY EVER DO IS CALLOUSLY USE PEOPLE!
AH! MIEL
MAYBE DERRIS HAS HIS REASONS
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HIM WELL ENOUGH YET TO JUDGE
Mmmph
GRAB
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, SO DON'T TALK ANYMORE!
Not one more word!

See
IF YOU BUILD A WALL BEFORE GETTING TO KNOW THE OTHER PERSON
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HIM OR HER
GASP
I GET IT...
Put him down would you? He can't breathe!
SIGH
I ADMIT THERE ARE ARISTOCRATS LIKE YOU, TOO
AHAHA
I HAD A FEELING YOU DID
EH?! YOU KNEW?!
I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT!!
...BUT IT WAS CONFIRMED WHEN I SAW YOU DO MAGIC. YOU'RE A SOUTHPAW, PRINCE. THAT'S UNCOMMON.
WHEN I SAW YOUR FACE, I SUSPECTED
He's left-handed?!
PRINCE RADIAN
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I'LL THINK ABOUT GOING TO THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT.

GONG
SMART-ASS!!
MIEL IS THE ONE I LOVE!!
IN MY EXPERIENCE, PEOPLE WHO PASSIONATELY SAY "I HATE YOU!" TEND TO LOOK AT YOU A LOT
DOESN'T THAT REALLY MEAN JUST THE OPPOSITE, "LOVE"?
MIEL, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING ABOUT ME!
AND THEN WE CAN BE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND!
EH?!
WHY WOULD I WANNA DO THAT?!
GYAAA
GYAAA
RADI, DON'T YOU FORGET YOUR POSITION! YOU'RE A PRINCE!
DON'T GET SMUG JUST BECAUSE SHE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU!
You'd better not try to lie on her!
Shut up before the whole neighborhood hears you
ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH
DERRIS, TAKE THE CRIMINALS TO THE POLICE WITH SIEG
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE INCOGNITO HERE, SO I'LL STAY BEHIND WITH MIEL.

EH?!
Bye-bye!
DON'T GET SMUG JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A TRAINEE LIKE MIEL!
NO ROMANCING ON THE JOB!
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D GET TO ME LIKE THIS.
HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK.
MUTTER MUTTER
PFF
HOW CAN I FORGET MY POSITION?
IT'S THE REASON I HOLD BACK FROM SAYING WHAT I REALLY WANT TO SAY
MIEL?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EASYGOING ATTITUDE OF A MINUTE AGO, RADI?
AAAA!
No no, it's okay!
I'M GLAD
SORRY

THAT'S RIGHT. I WANTED TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT
EARLIER, IT FELT LIKE YOU WERE THE PRINCE. LIKE YOU WERE SO FAR AWAY
SO I'M HAPPY I GOT TO MEET MY RADI
MIEL
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE SAID TO EACH OTHER ONCE?
YOU SAID YOU'D TELL ME SOMETHING WHEN I GOT TO THE PALACE? AND I SAID I'D WRING IT OUT OF YOU?
I WANT RADI TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT HIMSELF ...
—IS IT TOO EARLY FOR THAT?

I REMEMBER—
AND IT'S NOT TOO EARLY
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO HEAR.
BUT I EXPECT A LOT FROM YOUR MAGIC, TOO, MIEL...
MAYBE IT'S SELFISH OF ME TO WANT BOTH
NOT AT ALL!
I'M THRILLED THAT YOU'RE COUNTING ON ME TO COME THROUGH!

EH?!
EH?!
YOU GOT THIS FAR UNDER YOUR OWN POWER. AND I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO MISLABEL YOU
ALSO, THINGS ARE COMPLICATED AT THE PALACE THESE DAYS
SKIP
MIEL
ALL RIGHT, THEN WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME...IN SECRET?
Miel!
Welcome back!
RADI
FROM HERE ON OUT, I HOPE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RADI..
THAT'S WHY I'D NEED IT TO BE SECRET. BUT IT'S ALSO KIND OF EXCITING THAT WAY
It should be fun!
?!?

The LAPIS LAZULI CROWN
ラピスラズリの王冠
EPISODE.6

THIS IS THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN WHERE ROUGHLY 20% OF THE POPULATION CAN USE MAGIC.
PRINCE RADIAN IS GENTLE, KIND, AND POPULAR
MANY PEOPLE ARE EXPECTING GREAT THINGS OF THEIR FUTURE KING
OH!
PRINCE RADIAN...
I'VE HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES AT THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT
THANK YOU.
BUT I'M JUST A FIGURE-HEAD
THE CREDIT SHOULD REALLY GO TO THE EFFORTS OF OUR HARD WORKERS

GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN 4

ADVANCED LEVEL MAGIC-USERS. (SUCH AS SARA AND SIEG)

IT SEEMS A QUALIFICATION IS REQUIRED. AFTER PASSING A DIFFICULT TEST, THE APPLICANT IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE COUNTRY AS A SUPERLATIVE MAGIC-USER. THE MOST EMPHASIS IS PUT NOT ON POWER, BUT CRAFT AND SPIRIT. MAGIC SEEMS TO BE USED WITH ONE'S DOMINANT HAND, BUT ADVANCED LEVEL MAGIC-USERS ARE AMBIDEXTROUS IN THIS REGARD. IN LARGE GROUPS, MAGIC-USERS MUST ALWAYS CAREFULLY THINK ABOUT MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF MAGIC BEFORE USING IT.

OH!
CERTAINLY, IT'D BE AN HONOR TO WITNESS THE MAGIC OF ADVANCED SORCERER SIEG BASEL!
IF IT'S MAGIC YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, I'M SURE SIEG WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU
THAT'S NOT WHAT I HEAR. ONE DAY, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU DO MAGIC, YOUR HIGHNESS.
RADI!
STOP FOBBING YOUR ADMIRERS OFF ON ME LIKE THAT!
THEREFORE IF I DON'T NEED TO USE IT, I WON'T!
THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULACE CAN'T USE MAGIC RIGHT?
WELL, YOU KNOW I DON'T WANT TO DEMONSTRATE MY MAGIC IN PUBLIC.

HAH CITRONA TELLS ME I SHOULD USE IT
OUT OF REGARD FOR PRINCE CITRONA AS WELL, I TAKE IT.
Ah, I meant to tell you about that.
I PUSHED IT BACK TO TONIGHT.
PUBLIC RELATIONS NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET THESE DAYS
I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT WHAT'S THIS "INTERVIEW WITH A REPORTER" THIS AFTER-NOON?!
WHEN DID YOU MAKE THIS APPOINT-MENT?! YOU'VE GOT BUREAU WORK TO DO!
EVEN SO RAD!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU WANT TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE PUBLIC.
I'm not!
BUT I'M HAPPY THAT IT PLEASES SO MANY PEOPLE.
I'M JUST DOING WHAT'S NATURAL
DON'T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

AH!
Hehe-heh!
SINCE YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT ME, I DO HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK! ♡
THE PALACE, BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT
AAAAA
ARE YOU SURPRISED, MIEL?

AHHH
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT A SECRET...
I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU THAN THIS.
WE ARE DATING, AFTER ALL.
U!p
DON'T SAY THAT IN FULL PRINCE GARB...
BUT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO MEET YOU IF I DIDN'T TAKE THE ODD OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS
YES!!
YOU SHOULDN'T SUDDENLY APPEAR AS THE PRINCE IN FRONT OF A NEW EMPLOYEE!
There's no one else here is there?!
FWISH
HUYEE
In my kind I know Rad and Prince Rad are the same but
I mean
BUT YOU HAVE AN IMAGE WHEN YOU'RE THE PRINCE
I KNOW YOU'RE "BOTH" RAD! AND I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU
SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO HELP ME.
WELL... OKAY
MIEL IS A MAGIC USER WHO I MET WHEN I VENTURED OUT TO TOWN IN THIS FORM SOME TIME AGO.
SO SHE IMPROVED HER MAGIC SKILLS IN ORDER TO WORK AT THE PALACE
IS THIS BETTER?

IT FEELS GOOD WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
I LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE SURPRISED OR ANGRY AT ME, TOO ♡
CHUCKLE
MIEL CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING EMPLOYED BY THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT
I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU MADE IT THIS FAR
WELL I STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO BEFORE I BECOME STRONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO RELY ON ME.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR THAT FOR YOU TO LEND ME AN EAR, DO I?
OF COURSE NOT!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? IS ANYTHING NEW?
HEY!
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?!
IF SOMEONE COMES IN HERE WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE!
ONE OF THE THINGS I VALUE ABOUT MIEL IS HOW HONESTLY SHE SPEAKS TO ME
STARE...

Wha—
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
WHUMP
UWAAA!
MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW...
HOW HAPPY IT MAKES ME THAT YOU LOVE ME
GYAAA!
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
Yeah, I'm fine
BUT YOUR PRODIGIOUS PHYSICAL STRENGTH
MEANS YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO HANDLE GREAT MAGIC POWER...
HAAA
I-I SEE YOU HAVEN'T LOST ONE BIT OF YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH...
Sorry, I went overboard there.

BUT I WASN'T ASKING YOU TO TELL ME ABOUT ME!
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT MAY BE OF CONCERN TO YOU.
I WILL, OF COURSE!
YOU WERE EMPLOYED BY THE BUREAU BECAUSE OF THAT POTENTIAL, SO DO YOUR BEST
SINCE WHEN MAGIC IS GIVEN FORM, IT BECOMES HEAVY
I HEARD FROM MY SISTER AFTER IT WAS DECIDED I WAS GOING TO BE ASSIGNED HERE.
OH. ABOUT MY FAMILY?
Hm?
She's terrible!
THE ANCIENT AGE OF CHAOS I LEARNED ABOUT AT SCHOOL TODAY WILL COME AGAIN!!
AAAH!
THE BARRIER AROUND THE COUNTRY WILL BE DESTROYED! THE EQUILIBRIUM OF MAGIC WILL BE THROWN OUT OF BALANCE!
Sure.
I'LL RUB YOU BOTH OUT BEFORE ANY OF THAT HAPPENS
YOU'RE JOINING THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT?!
EH?!

MIEL
I DIDN'T TELL YOU THIS BEFORE BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU, BUT...
WHAT, CAN'T YOU JUST BE HAPPY FOR ME?!
ALTHOUGH YOU DO HAVE A LOT OF MAGICAL POWER, THAT, AND I'M SURE THEY ZEROED IN ON YOUR UNNATURAL STRENGTH
BARRIER MAGIC IS YOUR WEAKNESS, SO I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D END UP AT THE BUREAU
—WHEN OUR ANCESTOR WAS EMPLOYED BY THE PALACE, HE WAS IN THE BARRIER BUREAU, TOO.
BUT HE MADE SOME COLOSSAL MISTAKE AND WAS THROWN OUT OF THE PALACE
IT HAPPENED OVER 50 YEARS AGO..
BUT THE NOBILITY HAS A LONG MEMORY, SO YOU MAY BE IN FOR SOME SNIDE REMARKS
OH..
BOTH SISTERS ARE STRONG-WILLED
Really?
BUT SHE DID SAY "STRONG JOB PERFORMANCE WILL SHUT THE NAYSAYERS SO DO YOUR BEST."
AND I WILL, BESIDES I'M NOT GONNA LET WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE I WAS BORN GET TO ME

RADI, ARE YOU ABOUT READY?
MIEL'S BREAK IS OVER, TOO.
YEAH, ALL RIGHT, THANKS.
I'LL SEE YOU SOON.
I HEAR YOU'RE SUPERVISING MIEL AND THE OTHERS THIS AFTERNOON, SIEG?
LUCKY. I WANNA BE A TEACHER, TOO.
DON'T TALK NONSENSE. I JUST GAVE YOU TIME TO BE WITH HER, DIDN'T I?
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN CALL MEETING WITH HER "DATING"
...GIVEN THE SPARSE AMOUNT OF TIME YOU ACTUALLY SPEND TOGETHER.
I'M JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE.
I know.

HE DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT WOOING A WOMAN!
That jerk!
IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH DERRIS PUTTING THE MOVES ON MIEL, DOESN'T IT?
ALSO BEHAVING LIKE A GOOD BOY A TRAIT YOU ONCE DISPLAYED
Good boy?!
Hmph.
HIS DETERMINATION
...AND TENDENCY TO TURN THOUGHT INTO ACTION AS SOON AS IT FLASHES ACROSS HIS MIND REMINDS ME OF YOU...
BUT AT A CERTAIN POINT, YOU BECAME GUARDED...
...AND ONLY ACTED THE PART OF A GOODY-GOODY
It's normal to be slightly clumsy when it comes to women
THAT'S RIGHT... THAT WAS AROUND THE TIME I BECAME AN ADVANCED SORCERER...
AND PRINCE CITRONA WAS RELEASED FROM HIS LONG PERIOD OF CONVALESCENCE

I WOULD THINK MORE ABOUT THEM-SELVES OR OTHER PEOPLE.
I WISH SIEG AND MIEL BOTH..
I CAN'T RELAX WITH PEOPLE WORRYING ABOUT ME
IT'S MY WEAK-NESS, I SUPPOSE
FOR EXAMPLE
EH ?!
CITRONA ?!
YOU FIND FAULT WITH EVERY-THING THESE DAYS, SIEG!
IT MUST COME WITH AGE!!
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE
I'm gonna call you "old man!"
RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN ALL WORK AND NO PLAY.
BUT HAVING SIEG BRING IT UP IS GALLING
THE OTHER THING IS—

CITRONA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?! DO YOU FEEL WELL ENOUGH?
RADIAN!
RADI-?!
UH-HUH!
I FEEL GREAT TODAY, SO I THOUGHT IF I WALKED OUT THIS FAR MAYBE I'D RUN INTO YOU
THIS IS WONDER-FUL!
OUR PATHS REALLY DID CROSS!
Heh.
YOU GAVE ME QUITE A STIR.
YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME
THANK YOU

CONTINUING WITH EPISODE FIVE. ABOUT ONE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THE END OF EPISODE FOUR... WHICH MEANS THAT OUR CAST HAS TURNED 18. NOT THAT IT MATTERS ~

I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT DOING THIS EPISODE. OH, I KNOW. I MADE ANOTHER SPACE MISTAKE. THIS TIME, I FORGOT TO LEAVE A 1/4 SPACE AT THE BOTTOM OF THREE PAGES FOR ITS PUBLICATION IN THE MAGAZINE. THAT SPACE WAS RESERVED FOR A SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY SO FAR AND CHARACTER INTROS. I WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE ABOUT HALF AN INCH OF SPACE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MANUSCRIPT. BUT DIDN'T. AN ERROR I ONLY REALIZED AFTER FINISHING THE MANUSCRIPT AND SENDING IT OFF TO THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT. I PANICKED AND GOT ON THE PHONE.

THANKFULLY, I WAS TOLD THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO CHANGE ANYTHING. I DIDN'T FIX IT FOR THIS COLLECTED VOLUME EITHER. (LOL)

I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THAT THE SPACING WAS OFF.

Believe me it's no prank!
AHAHA!
OH, YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE IN A FEW MORE YEARS, LIKE IT OR NOT.
I'M CARRYING A MAGIC SWORD.
YOU SHOULD'VE TALKED TO HIM
OH...
HE LACKS THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO WIELD MAGIC
IN FACT
HOW-EVER
CITRONA POSSESSES MUCH MORE MAGICAL POWER THAN THE AVERAGE SORCERER

HIS LIFE IS HARD.
HE CAN'T BE APPROACHED BY PEOPLE WITH STRONG MAGICAL TOOLS, SINCE EVEN THAT KIND OF POWER AFFECTS HIM.
THE FLOW OF UNCHECKED MAGICAL FORCE ROBS HIS BODY OF STRENGTH, SEVERELY WEAKENING HIS CONSTITUTION.
MIEL IN TRAINING
THE MORE SHE TRAINS, THE MORE POWER SHE'LL BE ABLE TO SAFELY DRAW OUT OF HERSELF.
IN MIEL'S CASE SHE'S BEEN ABLE TO GET A HANDLE ON IT BECAUSE SHE'S GOT THE BRUTE STRENGTH AND STAMINA.
MIEL WAS POOR AT CONTROLLING HER MAGIC BECAUSE SHE HAS A LOT OF POWER TOO, RIGHT?
MMM— THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WITH THAT LEVEL OF MAGIC POWER.
BUT SHE'S STILL POOR WITH BARRIERS.
I WONDER IF SHE'S HAVING A HARD TIME AT THE BUREAU

BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGE-MENT
THIS YEAR'S NEW EMPLOYEES ARE DERRIS DATT RECOGNIZED FOR HIS SPEED WITH AND JUDGMENT AT USING MAGIC
—AND MIEL VIOLETTE, BROUGHT TO THE BUREAU FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF MAGIC POTENTIAL AND EXPLOSIVE MUSCLE POWER
PRINCE RADIAN IS IN CHARGE OF THIS OFFICE, STAFFED WITH A COLLECTION OF STRONG SORCERERS
—AND ARISTO-CRATIC MAGIC-USERS
Buzz
PRINCE RADIAN!
HELLO, EVERYONE
HOW ARE DERRIS AND MIEL FITTING IN?

BUT SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, TOO SHE'S GOT THE ENTHUSIASM EVEN AS WE SPEAK, SHE'S UPSTAIRS TRAINING
AS FOR THE OTHER SHE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE WORK.
WE CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS ONE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
EH ...?
MAY I HAVE A WORD?
YOUR HIGH NESS
KNOCK KNOCK
I SEE
WELL KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
IS THAT RIGHT?
...BUT I'M NOT TOO SURE IF MIEL VIOLETTE MEETS OUR STANDARDS.
I DON'T MEAN TO CAST ASPERSIONS REGARDING YOUR EMPHASIS ON HIRING PEOPLE WITH REAL CAPABILITY

THERE'S THE MURKY HISTORY OF THE VIOLETTE FAMILY...
AND MOST OF US EXPECTED SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE TO BE ASSIGNED HERE THIS YEAR.
CHIFFONNADE IS AN EXCELLENT MAGICIAN BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THIS DEPARTMENT ISN'T WHERE HIS HEART LIES
BESIDES
YOU WANT AN *ARISTOCRAT WITH A HEAPING AMOUNT OF MAGICAL POWER?*
MIEL VIOLETTE FITS THE BILL PERFECTLY.
THE CHIFFONNADE FAMILY MUST NOT BE PLEASED
NOPE
IF THEY'D ONLY SEE HIM AS AN INDIVIDUAL

WAA! RADI!
GASP
AGAIN ...?!
DON'T WORRY I'M WEARING A BIT OF A DISGUISE TODAY
SAY
MIEL
HOW DOES IT FEEL WORKING AT THE BUREAU? NOBODY'S SAYING NASTY THINGS TO YOU?
PLUS, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE ON THE TRAINING FLOOR
GASP
THEY TALK ABOUT ME?
I KNOW IT'S NOTHING NEW
Oh, I'm fine
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
IN FACT, THEY SAY MORE ABOUT

ASIDE FROM BEING A SYMBOL OF THIS COUNTRY, THE CROWN GENERATES A BARRIER AROUND SAVARIN.
WHICH PRESERVES THE BALANCE OF MAGIC
YES THOSE WHO THINK THAT ONLY ARISTOCRATIC MAGICIANS
SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROTECT THE "CROWN OF LAPIS LAZULI".
THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MEMBERS OF THE NOBILITY WHO ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE WAY I DO THINGS
YOU MEAN
Savarin
THE PRIMARY JOB OF THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT IS TO PROTECT THIS CROWN AND THE NATIONAL BARRIER.
SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE IS A FRIEND OF MINE. WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER
EH?
You know him?
AND THE ARISTOCRATIC FAMILY AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL ARE THE CHIFFONNADES. IT MUST BE HARD ON SEIGLE
OH. I see

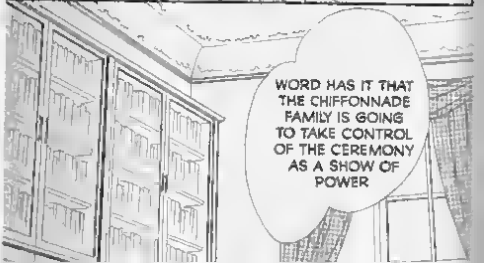
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT MY FAMILY WAS INVOLVED WITH YOUR ANCESTOR BEING EXPELLED FROM THE PALACE
SO LAST TIME WE MET HE TOLD ME ABOUT HOW...
BUT HE HEARD MY NAME MENTIONED AT HIS HOUSE AND IT BOTHERED HIM
BUT SEIGLE DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE FAMILY "BUSINESS"
HE WANTED TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES AT THE PALACE SO BADLY THAT HE MADE IT HERE UNDER HIS OWN POWER
Even though he could've used his family connections and not taken the exam at all.
YOU REALLY DO LOVE TO STUDY...
As long as it's what you want
I was assigned exactly where I wanted to be!
AND I WANT TO SHED LIGHT ON WHAT HAPPENED WITH OUR FAMILIES, TOO!
SINCE JOINING THE BUREAU OF CULTURE, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO STUDY THE HISTORY OF MAGIC
Sigh.
INSTEAD OF HELPING YOU, I SEEM TO BE MAKING THINGS MORE COMPLICATED
IT'S JUST MANIFESTED IN A DIFFERENT WAY
THEN HE S GOT THE OLD CHIFFONNADE AMBITION
He doesn't really need to use magic where he's at now.
SO HE WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC

ANYWAY, ONCE YOUR POWER STABILIZES
I THINK YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO BE SOMEONE I CAN DEPEND ON
OH, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
THANK YOU
I'M GOING TO REDOUBLE MY EFFORTS THEN, SO THAT DAY COMES ALL THE SOONER
See you!
I'M GOING TO EXTEND MY TIME ON THE TRAINING FLOOR
DON'T WORRY ABOUT CHECKING IN ON ME LET'S BOTH FOCUS ON DOING OUR BEST!
EH?! MIEL, YOU'RE GOING ALREADY?!
I DON'T HAVE TO CHECK IN ON YOU...?!
EH?

DERRIS DATT (18)

GRADUATED FROM THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MAGIC IN SARACEL. A DETERMINED AND POSITIVE THINKER TO THE POINT OF ARROGANCE. HATES THE NOBILITY BECAUSE IN HIS HOME AREA, THEY CONTROL MANY MAGIC-RELATED INDUSTRIES. IN ORDER TO CHANGE THAT ONE DAY FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO COME AFTER HIM HE'S COME TO THE PALACE.

HE IS AFFECTIONATE AND HAS A WEAKNESS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE WORLDLY WISE. HE'S A GOOD GUY AND I LIKE TO THINK I MADE THE MOST OF HIS APPEARANCES. BUT I ONLY WISH HE COULD'VE HAD MORE "SCREEN TIME" (SAME WAY I FEEL ABOUT ALL THE "FRIEND CHARACTERS")



THE CHIFFONNADE FAMILY WAS IN CHARGE LAST TIME TOO TEN YEARS AGO, WEREN'T THEY? DON'T KNOW WHY THEY FEEL THE NEED TO MAKE A SHOW OF POWER NOW...
THIS TIME AROUND YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE BARRIER BUREAU YOUR HIGHNESS
IF THE CEREMONY GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, I DON'T CARE HOW WE DO IT
I DON'T WANNA GET INVOLVED IN ANY UNNECESSARY QUARRELS
I WONDER IF EVERYONE FEELS THAT WAY...
All right no need to spell it out for me
YOUR HIGHNESS!
PRINCE RADIAN!

FRICTION'S ARISING AMONG THE FACTIONS
I KNOW.
AT THE NEXT CEREMONY, THE CHIFFONNADE FAMILY IS GOING TO
CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO TRY TO WEAKEN THE BARRIER AROUND OUR COUNTRY.
TO MAKE MAGIC-USERS' POWER STRONGER!
UNFOUNDED RUMORS!
MAYBE THE PRINCE SHOULDN'T MANAGE US. I MEAN, HE CAN'T EVEN *USE* MAGIC.
SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF THE BARRIER BUREAU IS TRYING TO USE US! WE MUST
EVEN THOUGH REINFORCING THE BARRIER IS DONE TO MAINTAIN THE COUNTRY'S PEACE
AND NOT AS A SHOW OF ANY POWER OR SOME KIND OF COMPETITION

...THAT FOR MAGIC USERS THIS ONCE-A DECADE CEREMONY IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE
AND DERRIS HAS HEARD...
DON'T TRY TO GLOSS THINGS OVER!
YOU KNOW VERY WELL...
SOME PEOPLE ARE CALLING FOR PRINCE CITRONA, WHO POSSESSES AN ABUNDANCE OF MAGICAL POWER ...TO BECOME THE HEAD OF THE BARRIER BUREAU
WHAT...?
BUT CITRONA CAN'T PHYSICALLY USE MAGIC!
...THAT THE CHIFFONNADE FAMILY PLANS TO PERSUADE PRINCE CITRONA TO APPEAR

THEN YOU SHOULD TAKE CONTROL HERE, YOUR HIGHNESS!
MANY OF US FEEL THE SAME WAY...
...AND WE'LL DO EVERY-THING IN OUR POWER TO HELP YOU!
WELL, I'LL DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT.
ANYWAY, I WANT EVERYONE TO KEEP WORKING HARD.
I'LL CALL ON YOU WHEN CRUNCH TIME COMES! ♡
D-O-U-B-T-F-U-L
H-m-m-m

SHUTA
10
SINCE WHEN
. DID YOU STOP BEING ABLE TO GRASP AN EXTENDED HELPING HAND?
NOT USED TO HAVING EVERYONE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I'M AT A LOSS
OH
THAT'S NOT TRUE
HOW DOES SIEG SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME..?

NOK NOK
KA-CHA
YES—?
SORRY, RAD!
WHUMP
WHA--?!
DOOR, CLOSE!
QUIET!
?!?

MIEL...? WHAT'S WRONG?
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE...? AND IS THAT A DISGUISE?
SHUT
Whew
NO ONE SAW ME
.....
FLASH
Back to normal
SIEG LET ME IN
HE SAID IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD IF A GIRL WAS SEEN WALKING TOWARDS YOUR CHAMBER
THE FIRST TIME WE MET, I TOLD YOU I COULDN'T USE MAGIC BECAUSE I WASN'T CARRYING ANY STONES. REMEMBER?
So you didn't notice after all
THIS IS MY REAL FORM!
Huh?
YOU USE THAT HAIRSTYLE EVEN IN YOUR ROOM?

THEN THAT MEANS I'VE BEEN MEETING THE REAL RADI.
I see
CHUCKLE
THAT'S RIGHT.
MUTTER MUTTER
WHY ARE YOU NITPICKING?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SEEN ME TRANSFORM?
I GOT TIRED OF HAVING LONG HAIR SO I CUT IT IN THE BACK. WHICH MADE MY PUBLIC RELATIONS FLACKS CRY!
WHAT?
THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT I HAVE TO ASK YOU!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT THAT!
GASP
RADI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU WORKING TOO HARD?

YOU CAME HERE TO ASK ME THAT?
SIEG LET HER THROUGH TO TELL ME THAT
IF YOU WERE SPOTTED COMING HERE AND JUST TO ASK ME ABOUT THAT THERE'LL BE BIG TROUBLE...
I'M FINE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT--
WHY NOT?! YOU DID THE SAME, DIDN'T YOU?
HELPED ME OUT WHEN I WAS IN DANGER
CHEERED ME UP WHEN I WAS FEELING DOWN
AND IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT ME! RADI, YOU'RE WILLING TO LEND EVERYONE A HELPING HAND...
...AND THAT'S WHAT MADE ME WANT TO HELP YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE
SO, PLEASE ...LET ME, FOR ONCE.
MIEL

CITRONA ZATO SAVARIN (14)

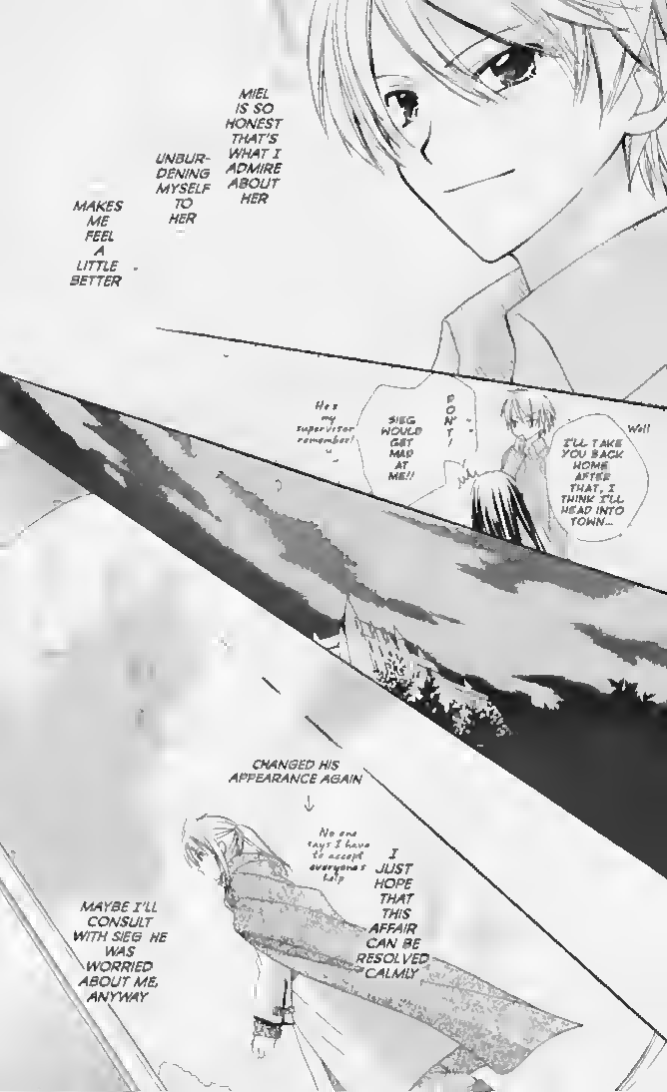
RADI'S YOUNGER BROTHER. POSSESSES A LARGE AMOUNT OF MAGICAL POWER BUT HIS BODY IS SO WEAK THAT HE CAN'T USE IT OCCASIONALLY GOES TO THE SOUTH TO CONVALESCE. LOOKS YOUNGER THAN HE ACTUALLY IS, EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED THAN RADI

ACTUALLY HE WAS THE EASIEST CHARACTER TO DRAW AND HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE INITIAL PLANNING STAGES OF THE SERIES. THE ONLY THING I HAD TO MAKE MAJOR CHANGES TO MY OVERALL PLAN (CUTTING DOWN THE NUMBER OF EPISODES) SO I'M GLAD I GOT TO FIT HIM IN AT ALL.

EVERYONE WHO'S IMPORTANT TO ME IS BASICALLY SAYING THE SAME THING

BUT I WAS TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.

EVER SINCE I OPENED MY EYES TO THE POSITION I'M IN THE POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY
I'VE DESPERATELY BEEN TRYING TO PROTECT SEVERAL THINGS
BUT THAT'S MADE ME RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT HELP FROM ANY QUARTERS
WHEN PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT ME, I HAD THE FEELING THAT THEY DOUBTED MY ABILITY
AND EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T, I DIDN'T WANT TO GET THEM EMBROILED IN MY PROBLEMS
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING WHAT YOU'RE DOING
...SO YOU'RE LYING EVEN TO YOURSELF
That's not trying not to think about it!
BLUNT
WHEN PEOPLE SEE YOU LIKE THAT, IT MAKES THEM WORRY EVEN MORE!
So stop it!
ULP

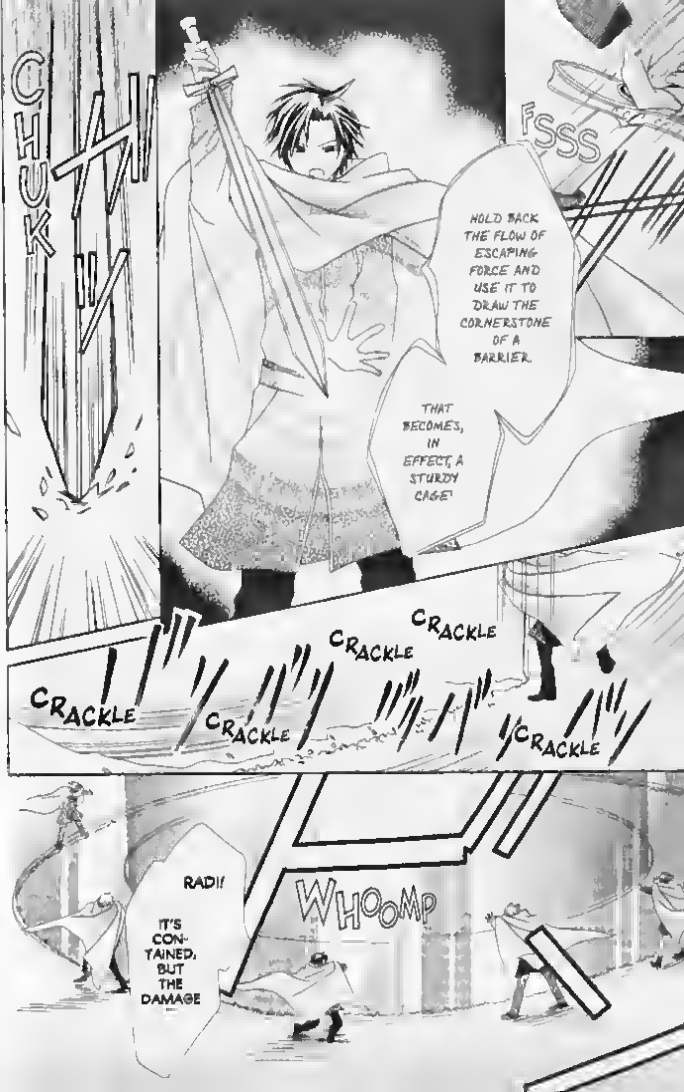

MIEL IS SO HONEST THAT'S WHAT I ADMIRE ABOUT HER
UNBURDENING MYSELF TO HER
MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE BETTER
Well
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK HOME AFTER THAT, I THINK I'LL HEAD INTO TOWN...
DON'T!
SIEG WOULD GET MAD AT ME!!
He's my supervisor remember?
CHANGED HIS APPEARANCE AGAIN
No one says I have to accept everyone's help
I JUST HOPE THAT THIS AFFAIR CAN BE RESOLVED CALMLY
MAYBE I'LL CONSULT WITH SIEG HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME, ANYWAY

YOUR HIGH-NESS!
PLEASE COME QUICKLY!
TA TA TA TA TA
THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE CROWN ...!!
DON'T LET ANYONE IN THIS WING!
PUT A BARRIER AROUND THE OTHER BUILDINGS!
HAS THE PRINCE BEEN NOTIFIED?!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
PRINCE RADIAN!
A PORTION OF THE BARRIER SUR-ROUNDING THE CROWN IS DAMAGED!
WE BELIEVE POWER IS SEEPING OUT OF THE CROWN

NATIONAL BARRIER
POWER
GATHERED MAGICAL FORCE
BARRIER
AROUND THE CROWN
A POWERFUL BARRIER SURROUNDS THE CROWN AND IS GUARDED 24 HOURS A DAY
TO ENSURE THAT THE CROWN'S MAGICAL FORCE IS SAFELY SHOT UPWARDS
A BARRIER AROUND THE COUNTRY
THE CROWN OF LAPIS LAZULI GATHERS MAGICAL FORCE AND USES IT TO GENERATE
SO HOW COULD THAT BARRIER BE DAMAGED...?
!
CITRONA?!
WHO'S WITH HIM?!
WHAT'S HE DOING AT THE BARRIER BUREAU?!
TO BE CONTINUED

I KNOW THAT PERSON
SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE!!
FOO
WHOOM
FWO
OSW
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?!
PLEASE COME BACK!! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
AH! PRINCE RADIAN!
DASH

FWOO
PRINCE RADIAN!
WE'RE TRYING TO HOLD BACK THE FLOW OF POWER AND REPAIR THE DAMAGED SECTION.
BUT THE LEAK IS STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT! THE POWER'S COMING OUT IN WAVES!
NOT MANY PEOPLE IN HERE--THE REST MUST'VE BEEN SENT TO OTHER PLACES TO SET UP PROTECTIVE BARRIERS.
THE WAY IT LOOKS, IT'S ALL THEY CAN DO TO PUT A DAMPER ON THE FLOW OF POWER. BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ROOM TO MAKE ANY REPAIRS!
SIEG, CREATE A NEW PLATE ON THE FLOOR!
EVERYONE ELSE CONCENTRATE YOUR POWER ABOVE IT TO STRENGTHEN THE BARRIER!
UNDERSTOOD!
EVERYONE, GET BACK!
FORM ONE MORE BARRIER LAYER AROUND THE DAMAGED AREA TO STOP THE FLOW!


CHUK
AW
FSSS
HOLD BACK THE FLOW OF ESCAPING FORCE AND USE IT TO DRAW THE CORNERSTONE OF A BARRIER.
THAT BECOMES, IN EFFECT, A STURDY CAGE!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
RAD!!
IT'S CONTAINED, BUT THE DAMAGE
WHOOMP

BUZZ
THE PRINCE?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM DO ANY MAGIC!
CAN PRINCE RADIAN USE HIGH GRADE MAGIC LIKE THAT?!
I'M GOING IN!
YOUR HIGHNESS! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP?!
THIS IS NO TIME TO TREAT US LIKE NEO-PHYTES!
AH YOU TWO CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME
WE'RE KEEPING THE DOOR CLOSED
MEANWHILE, I'LL PERFORM THE REPAIR!
YES, SIR!
DERRIS, YOU LOOSEN ONE SECTION OF THE BARRIER OUTSIDE SO THAT POWER CAN BE FUNNELED INTO IT
MIEL, FROM THERE, YOU SEND POWER INTO THE DAMAGED AREA AND RETURN ANY POWER THAT'S LEAKING OUT

IT FEELS LIKE I'M UNDER-WATER.
MY BODY'S HEAVY
FORCE THAT'S TIED INTO THE BARRIER.
RESTORE!
KKKK

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
RADI
TAKING A LONG TIME...
MORE POWER !!
BOOM
EH ...? MIEL ?!
HUMMM
MIEL ...!!

THAT'S IT! THE FORCE HAS WEAKENED!

BUZZ
Contact everyone else!
Fix the floor!
BUZZ
BUZZ
WOBBLE
HUFF HUFF
AH...I DON'T THINK I CAN STAND UP...
LET'S GET YOU TO A DOCTOR!
YOUR HIGHNESS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
BUZZ

SIEG!
HELP...
EH...? THAT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING...
Hero
THEN I'LL CARRY YOU...
I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT LINE IN A WHILE.
SIEG
AH, LOOKS LIKE HE USED UP ALL HIS ENERGY.
But how could 'Help'!
I THINK HE WANTS YOU TO COME TOO, MIEL

IT SEEMS SOME KIND OF CHANGE IN THE FORCE CAUSED IT FROM THE INSIDE
THERE'S NO SIGN OF DAMAGE TO THE BARRIER FROM OUTSIDE
I'M THINKING CITRONA CAME CLOSE TO THE CROWN
...WHICH HAD AN EFFECT ON THE BALANCE OF THE FORCE
HE WAS AT THE BARRIER BUREAU...
...WITH A MEMBER OF THE CHIFFON-NADE FAMILY
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE WOULDN'T GO TO A PLACE HOUSING A MAGIC ITEM OF THAT SCOPE
PRINCE CITRONA WAS NEAR THE CROWN?!
SIEG
MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR ME TO SEE THE KING, THE MINISTERS AND THE HEADS OF EACH BUREAU.
I SUPPOSE IT'S TOO LATE TO RESOLVE THIS WITHOUT CONFLICT...

ACTUALLY, I DON'T WANT TO DRAG ANYONE INTO THIS
BUT IF I CAN GATHER EVERYONE'S POWER TOGETHER, THEN IT WILL BE OBLIGED TO
CHOOSE PEOPLE THAT WOULD PROBABLY HELP US IN THE MATTER OF THE CEREMONY
HELP ?
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY
RAD!
MIEL, I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS, TOO
MIEL...I WANT YOU BY MY SIDE.
I'M GOING TO INVOLVE YOU IN WHAT HAPPENS NEXT AT THE PALACE—

...BUT I'M ALSO GOING TO PROTECT YOU...
...SO I WANT YOUR ASSISTANCE
OF COURSE!
I TAKE HER PROFFERED HAND, TRUSTING IN IT...
...AND I, IN TURN, WILL PROTECT THIS HAND.

LAPIS LAZULI CROWN
ラピスラズリの
王冠
FINAL EPISODE

LONG AGO, THERE WAS A PERIOD IN WHICH MAGIC FLOODED THE COUNTRY.
CHAOS REIGNED
UNTIL A WISE MAN DISCOVERED HOW TO QUELL THE RAMPANT MAGIC BY SEALING IT INSIDE A ROCK
HE THEN LEARNED TO CHANNEL THE MAGIC POWER THROUGH THE ROCK, A LAPIS LAZULI
AND USED IT TO CREATE A BARRIER THAT HE HOPED WOULD PROVIDE PEACE TO HIS NATION

GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN 5

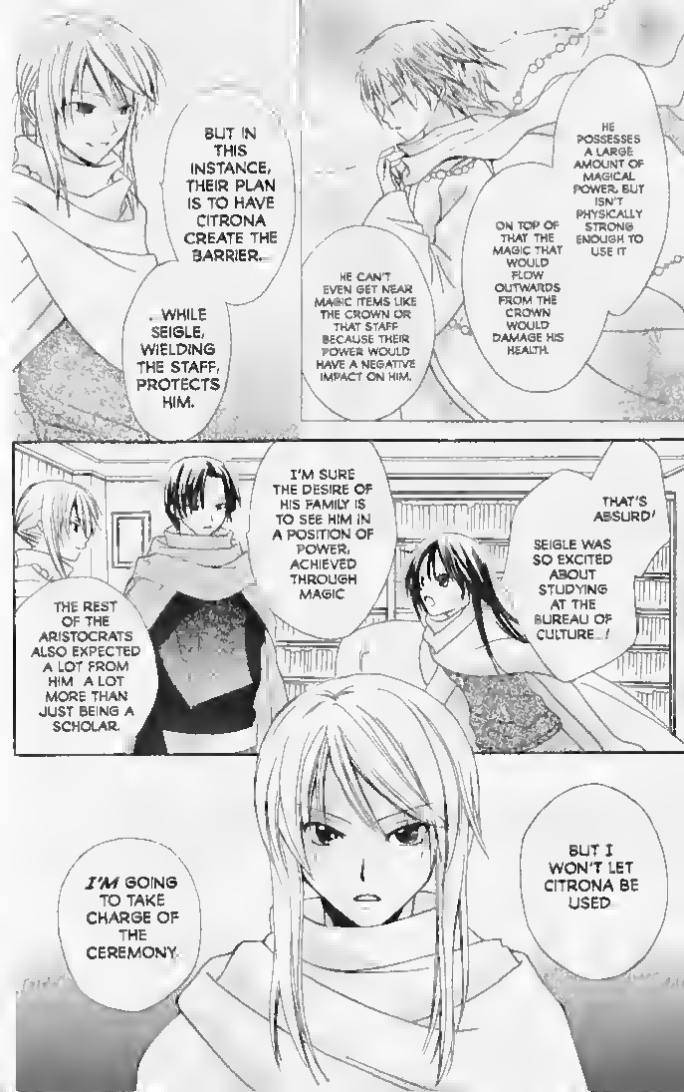
NAMES SOME PEOPLE HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY FIGURED THIS OUT, BUT

THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN: SAVARIN RICH YEAST CAKE IN A RING FORM (NAMED AFTER BRILLAT-SAVARIN A FAMOUS 18TH-CENTURY FOOD WRITER) THAT'S SOAKED WITH RUM-FLAVORED SYRUP AND FILLED WITH PASTRY CREAM CREME CHANTILLY OR FRESH FRUIT (FROM DIANASDESSERTS COM)
MIEL HONEY / RADI RADISH
SORRY I TOOK EVERYTHING FROM FOOD' THERE ARE OTHERS, DERIVED THE SAME WAY SOME SMOOTHER FITS THAN OTHERS

Savarin
...BETWEEN THE MAGICAL POWER OF THE KINGDOM AND THAT OF POWER ELSEWHERE
AND BROADCASTS A BARRIER AROUND THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN THAT ALLOWS FOR CO-EXISTENCE.
CURRENTLY THE CROWN OF THE KINGDOM INCLUDES LAPIS LAZULI...
SINCE THAT TIME, MAGIC COULD ONLY BE USED BY CHANNELING IT THROUGH STONES..
AND TRAINING BECAME ESSENTIAL
WHILE I WAS BORN INTO A FAMILY OF MAGIC USERS
BUT THEN ME! WAS!
I WAS NEVER ANY GOOD AT USING IT MYSELF
AND SO MAKING NO PROGRESS I
I WANT YOUR ASSISTANCE.
AND SOON I DECIDED THAT I HAD TO BECOME A MAGIC USER STRONG ENOUGH TO HELP HIM AND EARN HIS PRAISE.
AND SO HERE WE ARE...
OF COURSE!
AND I HOPE THAT YOU BECOME GOOD ENOUGH TO EVEN BE GRANTED ACCESS TO THE PALACE!
I KNOW YOU'LL IMPROVE ON YOUR MAGIC!

. AT THE PALACE IN THE KINGDOM OF SAVARIN
RIGHT NOW RADI, ACTING AS PRINCE RADIAN, HEAD OF THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT...
...IS ATTEMPTING TO HANDLE THE UPCOMING CEREMONY TO REINFORCE THE BARRIER AROUND THE COUNTRY
EVERY TEN YEARS, THE BARRIER AROUND OUR NATION IS REINFORCED AND REGULATED.
FOR THE REINFORCING, THE POWER OF SIX MAGICAL PRACTITIONERS IS USED
THESE SIX CHANNEL THEIR ENERGIES THROUGH SPECIAL STAFFS THAT THEN POUR INTO THE CROWN
AT THE END, ONE OF THE SIX, THE CONDUCTOR CONTROLS THE MAGICAL FORCE NOW IN THE CROWN AND USES IT TO PUT THE BARRIER INTO OPERATION
AND THUS, THE BARRIER IS REINVIGORATED
BUT THEREIN LIES THE RUB.

WE'VE HAD CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE CHIFFONNADE FAMILY WANTS TO USE PRINCE CITRONA TO DIRECT THE CEREMONY
...AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO JUST WISH TO USE THIS CEREMONY AS A SHOW OF THEIR OWN POWER
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE TO HANDLE THE AMOUNT OF MAGIC REQUIRED FOR THE REINFORCING IS FEW...
CON-FIRMED...?
LATEST RECORDS SHOW THAT THE CHIFFONNADES HAVE THE MOST POWER OUT OF ALL THE NOBLE FAMILIES
SO THEY DON'T WANT RADI TO POSSESS ANY POWER IN THE SPHERE OF MAGIC
WELL, THEY NEVER DID LIKE ME
AND IT APPEARS THAT SEIGLE CHIFFON-NADE
...IS GOING TO COVER CITRONA
EH?
SEIGLE?! *COVER* CIT-RONA...?
CITRONA CAN'T USE MAGIC.


BUT IN THIS INSTANCE, THEIR PLAN IS TO HAVE CITRONA CREATE THE BARRIER.
. WHILE SEIGLE, WIELDING THE STAFF, PROTECTS HIM.
HE CAN'T EVEN GET NEAR MAGIC ITEMS LIKE THE CROWN OR THAT STAFF BECAUSE THEIR POWER WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON HIM.
ON TOP OF THAT THE MAGIC THAT WOULD FLOW OUTWARDS FROM THE CROWN WOULD DAMAGE HIS HEALTH.
HE POSSESSES A LARGE AMOUNT OF MAGICAL POWER, BUT ISN'T PHYSICALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO USE IT
THE REST OF THE ARISTOCRATS ALSO EXPECTED A LOT FROM HIM. A LOT MORE THAN JUST BEING A SCHOLAR.
I'M SURE THE DESIRE OF HIS FAMILY IS TO SEE HIM IN A POSITION OF POWER, ACHIEVED THROUGH MAGIC
THAT'S ABSURD!
SEIGLE WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT STUDYING AT THE BUREAU OF CULTURE...!
I'M GOING TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE CEREMONY.
BUT I WON'T LET CITRONA BE USED.

I'M GOING TO INVOLVE YOU, ESPECIALLY, MIEL
IF IT MEANS HELPING YOU THERE'S NOTHING I'D RATHER DO.
IF ANYONE'S GOING TO BE USING PEOPLE IT'LL BE ME
AND NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY I'M GOING TO TRUST THOSE WHO SUPPORT ME
THANK YOU!
Waaa!
AND I'M SORRY.
SEE YOU AT THE BUREAU, THEN.
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE THE OTHER DAY, WHEN HE USED MAGIC IN PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME TO REPAIR THE BARRIER.
RADIS SERIOUS

WHICH IS FINE, EXCEPT HE MEANS TO THROW AWAY THE IMAGE OF THE KIND, GENTLE PRINCE.
THE BUREAU OF BARRIER MANAGEMENT
BUZZ
BUZZ
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
HEY! ISN'T THAT...
...SEIGLE CHIFFON-NADE?
BUZZ
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE? HE DOESN'T BELONG TO THE BARRIER BUREAU...
BUZZ

BUZZ
BUZZ
THIS MUST BE PRINCE RADIAN'S WORK!
WHEN .?
THEN, YOUR HIGH-NESS .!
I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE CEREMONY
THE KING AND HIS COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE DECIDED TO ENTRUST THE BARRIER BUREAU WITH OVERSEEING THE CEREMONY
CALLING SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE HERE MEANS PRINCE CITRONA IS GOING TO LEAD THE CEREMONY?
IF POSSIBLE
I WANT TO DO IT.
OHHHH
BUT WE BELIEVE WE'VE COME UP WITH THE BEST METHOD!
WE'VE EVEN SELECTED THE PRACTI-TIONERS
I THINK THE PEOPLE WHO CAN PERFORM THE JOB BEST SHOULD DO IT.

A LOT OF MAGICAL POWER WILL BE FLOWING THROUGH THE RODS USED FOR REINFORCING
HANDLING THAT POWER TAKES STAMINA.
THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PARTICIPANTS CAN INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE WHOLE CEREMONY
SO CHOOSE YOUR CANDIDATES AND TRAIN BUT I'LL DECIDE ON THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS
.. THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY AND THEY'LL BE THOSE WHO ARE BEST ABLE TO HANDLE THE POWER THAT DAY
OF COURSE. I'LL BE TESTED, TOO
I TRUST YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THAT?
AS WILL CITRONA AND HIS PROTECTOR, SEIGLE
BUZZ
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF AN ARRANGE MENT LIKE THIS
YOUR HIGHNESS, BEG PARDON BUT ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH WITH MAGIC TO COMPETE WITH SEIGLE?
BUZZ
FINE
THEN THE CEREMONY WILL BE RUN BY THOSE MOST SUITED TO THE TASK

SILENCE
SILENCE
...NOMINATE SOMEONE AS A CANDIDATE FOR PRACTITIONER.
I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO.
EH?
MIEL VIOLETTE
EH...?!
SHE'S THE PERSON WITH THE MOST MAGICAL POWER IN ALL THE BUREAUS.
THE CHIFFON NAMES HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT
BUZZ
WHAT?! THAT GUY WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM THE PALACE 50 YEARS AGO FOR SCREWING UP AT THE CEREMONY WAS A VIOLETTE!
YOUR HIGHNESS ARE YOU SERIOUSLY OPPOSING THE CHIFFON-NADE FAMILY?
BUZZ
SO THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT BY INVOLVING ME...
I-IT'S OKAY, DERRIS...
WHAT DOES RADI THINK HE'S DOING?!

BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
CAN THAT MIEL VIOLETTE EVEN HANDLE IT?
I DON'T CARE HOW FAMOUS HER FAMILY WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
IT'S BETTER TO HAVE CHIFFONNADE IN THE ROLE
SHE'S GOT TONS OF MAGICAL POWER, BUT CAN SHE USE IT?
SHE'S STILL A NEWBIE
WHY DID THE PRINCE...
THIS IS CAUSING QUITE A STIR...
THAT'S SOME HONOR, MIEL! I'LL REARRANGE YOUR WORK SCHEDULE YOU GO PRACTICE!
AAAAAH.. EVEN MORE PRESSURE...
DO YOUR BEST 'CAUSE WE'RE ALL COUNTING ON YOU!
DON'T LET CHIFFONNADE BEAT YOU!
BUT WHY IS SEAGLE EVEN PARTICIPATING IN THIS?

HM
THAT GIRL? WHY WAS SHE VISITING HERE?
HEY, WAS THAT JUST MIEL VIOLETTE?
SEIGLE IS STAYING WITH PRINCE CITRONA IN THE NORTH BUILDING UNTIL THE CEREMONY
I SEE..
THE BUREAU OF CULTURE
HHHHH NO MATTER WHERE I GO.
WITH PRINCE CITRONA... I WONDER IF I COULD MEET HIM IF I SUDDENLY WENT OVER...
YESSS! HE'S OUTSIDE..
SEIGLE!

MIEL...
P-PRINCE CITRONA!!
POP
WHO IS SHE?
THIS IS MY FRIEND MIEL VIOLETTE.
SHE WORKS FOR THE BARRIER BUREAU AND IS ALSO A FELLOW CANDIDATE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CEREMONY
I-IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU
NICE TO MEET YOU!
YOU MUST BE A GREAT MAGIC USER TOO, TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE CEREMONY
MIEL USED TO BE TERRIBLE AT CONTROLLING HER MAGIC POWER
BUT SHE MADE IT THIS FAR BY CONQUERING HER WEAKNESS

THAT'S AMAZING! YOU MUST HAVE WORKED REALLY HARD...
AND THEN, TO GET INTO THE BARRIER BUREAU! WOW!
THANK YOU
CONTROLLING MY POWER IS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS, THOUGH.
I'M ENVIOUS OF YOU.
I CAN'T EVEN CONTROL A BIT OF MY POWER...
BUT MAYBE IF I TRIED MY BEST WHO KNOWS?
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO HELP MY BROTHER, TOO, BUT...
...BUT HE CAN'T USE AN
AH...
IT'S IRONIC. PRINCE CITRONA HAS SO MUCH MAGICAL POWER

AH ARE YOU THE ONE MY BROTHER MET IN TOWN?
WHISPER
EH?
..LIKE THE INTERESTING THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN TOWN
HE TELLS ME ON THE SLY ABOUT THESE THINGS
JUST WHEN I HAD GIVEN UP ON MAGIC, PRINCE RADIAN ENCOURAGED ME TO KEEP AT IT
SINCE THEN I'VE WANTED TO HELP HIM IN SOME WAY, WHICH IS WHAT BROUGHT ME THIS FAR
KYAAA! HE'S SO CUTE!!
I CAN SEE WHY RADI WORRIES ABOUT HIM. HE'S JUST TOO ADORABLE!
EXACTLY!
RADIAN IS REALLY GOOD AT ENCOURAGING PEOPLE, ISN'T HE?
SO MUCH THAT I THINK HE SHOULD CONSIDER HIMSELF A LITTLE MORE OFTEN.
Hoh-hoh
UM, PRINCE CITRONA, ABOUT THE CEREMONY..
WORRIES...
BUT I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO MY BROTHER.

LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST
AND SEIGLE'S GOING TO PROTECT ME
EH?
BUT THAT'S
I WAS THRILLED TO HEAR I'M GOING TO HAVE MY BROTHER'S SUPPORT THERE
UH-HUH
PRINCE CITRONA DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE TURMOIL TAKING PLACE BEHIND THE SCENES?
AND WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY "HAVING HIS BROTHER'S SUPPORT"..?
EH..? ER, YES
GRIN
I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T HURT TO PUT MY POWER TO GOOD USE FOR ONCE. OUT IN THE OPEN
YOU KNOW HOW POWERFUL I AM, RIGHT?
HOW HAS SEIGLE EXPLAINED IT TO HIM?!

EH..?
I'M SURE THE INQUIRIES STARTED AFTER HIS HIGHNESS WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO NOMINATE A FRESHMAN EMPLOYEE
BUT ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, THE PRINCE PAYS YOU FREQUENT VISITS AT WORK AND NOMINATED YOU OUT OF FONDNESS.
I THINK IT'S MORE IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT YOUR POSITION THERE ARE ALREADY RUMORS FLYING AROUND ABOUT A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND THE PRINCE
TO WHAT END?
THAT'S NOT WHY RADI CHOSE ME!
THEN YOU'D BETTER PROVE THE RUMORS WRONG BY SHOWING YOUR CAPABILITY
BUT TO DO THAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAT ME... YOU'LL HAVE TO MASTER THE STAFF.
RIGHT NOW, ALL EYES ARE ON US.
SO BOTH OF US SHOULD ACT AS IF WE'RE GOING TO BECOME LEGENDARY SORCERERS... LIKE THE ORIGINAL MAGI!

EPISODE SIX TAKES PLACE ROUGHLY HALF A YEAR AFTER EPISODE FIVE. WOW. WE'RE REALLY MOVING AT A PRETTY GOOD CLIP EXCEPT THERE WAS REALLY A FOUR MONTH PUBLICATION GAP (IN THE MAGAZINE) BETWEEN EPISODES FIVE AND SIX. SO IT ALMOST WORKS OUT TO "REAL-TIME".

I DID A ONE-SHOT STORY BETWEEN EPISODES FIVE AND SIX. A NINJA STORY. ALSO I DID ANOTHER "DONE-IN-ONE" STORY AROUND THE SAME TIME I WAS WORKING ON EPISODE FOUR. THIS ONE SET IN THE FUTURE. IT WAS FUN GETTING TO WRITE AND DRAW SEVERAL DIFFERENT GENRES OF STORIES. THE ONLY THING IS, IT'S TOUGH GETTING ONE SHOTS PUBLISHED IN VOLUME FORM. WHICH IS TOO BAD. BECAUSE READERS WHO ONLY READ THE VOLUMES MISS OUT.

SO IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE, I'D LOVE IT IF YOU CHECKED OUT THE MAGAZINES. TOO. LALA COMES OUT ON THE 24TH OF EVERY MONTH, WHILE LALA DX IS BIMONTHLY AND ALWAYS COMES OUT ON THE 10TH. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SINCE THIS COLUMN ENDS ON A COMMERCIAL. I'LL WAIT 'TIL THE NEXT COLUMN TO TALK ABOUT EPISODE SIX.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: SORRY LALA AND LALA DX ARE ONLY AVAILABLE IN JAPAN.)

AW
STOP
SO DON'T COME TO VISIT ME ANYMORE.
BUT ALSO, RIGHT NOW, WE'RE RIVALS.
RIVALS!
RIGHT AFTER HE INTRODUCED ME AS HIS FRIEND!
AND HIS COOL COMPOSURE IS INFURIATING! BUT FINE. IF HE WANTS TO BE MY RIVAL, I'LL PICK UP THE GAUNTLET!
I DIDN'T EXPECT THERE TO BE RUMORS ABOUT RAD! AND ME...
STILL...

WHAT'S HIS HIGHNESS THINKING?
I KNOW! HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT HIM AND MIEL?
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH MAGIC POWER SHE HAS...
IT SEEMS THE CHIFFONNADE FAMILY DROVE OUT THE VIOLETTE FAMILY
THERE WAS SOME CONFRONTATION 50 YEARS AGO
HUH
"IS SHE REALLY SUITABLE?"
HUMM
FLASH
WHOA!

TSK-TSK. JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLY A REPLICA DOESN'T MEAN IT'S OKAY TO BREAK IT
STUPID STAFF!
SNAP
SIGH
FAILED AGAIN...
FEBST
FEBST
RADI!
RESTORE!
FLASH

WHEN THE STAFF SHINES STABILIZE THE COLOR AND MAKE THE LIGHT GROW BIGGER AND BIGGER.
STAY CALM AND LET THE POWER FLOW SLOWLY OUT OF YOU. AS IF YOU WERE GOING TO FILL IT WITH ALL YOUR ENERGY
WHIZZZ
FWISH
FLASHHH
FINALLY, RELEASE IT!
BLINK
ALTHOUGH RIGHT NOW I MERELY TURNED OFF THE POWER.
RAD... YOU'RE A WONDERFUL MAGICIAN AND HARDLY ANYONE KNOWS IT...
...WHILE EVERYONE KNOWS HOW GOOD SEIGLE IS...
AND I HAVEN'T HAD CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF TO BEGIN WITH.

HUMMM
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MIEL
DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE YOU'LL BE GREAT.
I'LL PUT A GOOD LUCK CHARM ON THIS.
DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE SAYING.
I KNOW HOW STRONG YOU ARE.
EVEN WITH ALL OF THESE RUMORS ABOUT US..
RADI'S CHEERING ME UP.
...SHOOT. HERE WE GO AGAIN

I'D LIKE IT BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T LET THEM BUG YOU.
AH..
BY THE WAY, MIEL, YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU'RE BOTHERED BY THE RUMORS?
SHOVE
O-OF COURSE!
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN PRACTICING HERE, WHERE I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D FIND ME!
You don't have to push on me!
Sigh
THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T WANT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO BE A SECRET.
THE ONLY REASON I DIDN'T MAKE IT PUBLIC WAS TO AVOID RUMORS AND DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR MERIT
MUTTER
MUTTER
EVEN SO, PEOPLE ARE TALKING AND YOU RE FORCED INTO OPPOSING SEIGLE
I'M SORRY
YOUR FRIEND

AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I'LL JUST HAVE TO IGNORE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY AND BECOME PROFICIENT ENOUGH WITH MAGIC TO GAIN MY OWN CONFIDENCE
THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EVEN GET CLOSE TO SEAGLE'S LEVEL..
well
BUT AT LEAST I WANNA BE CONFI DENT USING MAGIC
THERE YOU GO
GOOD LUCK.
I CAN'T LET MYSELF BE RATTLED BY RUMORS
I MADE IT THIS FAR NOW I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND STRIVE TO DO MY BEST..
BECAUSE RADI BELIEVED IN ME ENOUGH TO CHOOSE ME

OKAY BACK TO EPISODE SIX. RADI IS THE MAIN CHARACTER HERE. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING A STORY FROM HIS POV SO MUCH. I FINISHED THAT EPISODE REALLY QUICKLY
THAT PART OF THE STORY WAS PLANNED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. BUT DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND MY CONTROL, I HAD TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE STORYLINE. STILL, I WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE CITRONA AND THE CROWN OF LAPIS LAZULI HERE. WHICH I'M GLAD ABOUT.
THE ONLY THING THE LONG HAIRED RADI PROVED UNEXPECTEDLY DIFFICULT TO DRAW. ALTHOUGH QUITE A FEW PEOPLE HAVE WRITTEN TO ME SAYING THEY PREFER THE LONG HAIR. THE "REAL" RADI HAS SHORT HAIR. SORRY
ON TO EPISODE SEVEN. THE FINAL EPISODE!
I HAD A LOT OF FUN DRAWING CITRONA'S HAIR. MY FAVORITE THING TO DRAW IS HAIR. I LIKE LOOKING AT IT TOO.
BUT I WANT TO GET BETTER AT IT. SINCE I STILL CAN'T DRAW HAIR LIKE I SEE IT IN MY MIND. ALTHOUGH EVERY TIME I THINK THAT I REMIND MYSELF THAT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS I NEED TO WORK ON IMPROVING TOO. I'LL TRY HARDER.

TO BE CONTINUED AT THE END OF THE VOLUME

GLOWWW
OH, LOOK AT HER!
HAS SHE GOTTEN BETTER?
LOOKS LIKE BUT CAN SHE GET AS GOOD AS SEIGLE? HE GRADUATED AT THE HEAD OF THEIR CLASS!
Oh, shut up! I know that!
NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE SAY SEIGLE IS A FRIEND
I'M SURE PRINCE CITRONA DOESN'T CARE FOR CONFLICT LIKE THIS.
THEN WE'RE REALLY NOT AT ODDS ARE WE SEIGLE?
THE NORTH MANSION.
SEIGLE...!
TA TA
FLASH

CLINK CLINK
Sigh
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF PUTTING UP A BARRIER IN THE GARDEN...?! SO I CAN'T COME OVER?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WHO BREAKS MAGIC WITH A KICK?!
MIEL ...?!
KRAK
Hmm
UH, I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN DO THAT
JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW ANGRY I AM!
THAT WASN'T A KICK. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS THERE AND I RAN INTO IT
Grrr
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T WANT TO MEET YOU, NO-SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?
Sigh
I WAS PRACTICING WITH THE STAFF WHICH IS WHY I PUT UP A BARRIER.
And it's like you don't even realise it
IT'S NOT JUST YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. ONE SLIP OF CONCENTRATION AND DESTRUCTIVE MAGIC STREAMS OUT OF YOU.
BECAUSE YOU HAVE AS MUCH MAGIC POWER INSIDE YOU AS PRINCE CITRONA DOES.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH A FRIEND PAYING A VISIT?!
I FOUND MYSELF THINKING THAT IF I WERE YOU I COULD PROBABLY CONCLUDE THIS BUSINESS ABOUT THE CEREMONY IN A QUIETER WAY. SO I CAME OVER TO DISCUSS...
IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE ANY-THING
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF SPENDING YOUR TIME PRACTIC-ING WITH THE STAFF
I AM!
THEN SHALL WE SEE WHICH ONE OF US IS BETTER?
A SIMPLE CONTEST OF STRENGTH
Here you can see my spare staff
FLASH
WE LOCK STAFFS AND SEE WHICH ONE WITH-DRAWS FIRST.
FLASH
FINE
IF I WIN, YOU LISTEN TO ME

ROARRR
HUMMMM
SKWIRSH
FWOOOO
EH...? THE POWER IS BEING PULLED AWAY?!
SEIGLE
IS SOME-ONE ELSE HERE?
!

ROARRR
PRINCE CITRONA, PLEASE STAY OUT OF THE ROOM!
PRINCE CITRONA'S MAGIC POWER IS REACTING TO THE MAGIC ITEMS!
IS THAT WHY SEIGLE HAD A BARRIER UP?!
MIEL! I CALL A TEMPORARY HALT
TURN OFF YOUR POWER AND TAKE THE STAFF SOMEWHERE.
SEIGLE, LET ME BORROW THAT STAFF!
EH?! I HAVEN'T EMPTIED IT OF POWER YET..
JUST FORM A BARRIER AROUND PRINCE CITRONA!
MIEL ?!
All right

AS I THOUGHT THE POWER OF TWO PEOPLE IS HEAVY!
HUMMM
CLINK
SQUEEZE!
POWER HALT!
BE DESTROYED!
KRAK
ATTED
ATTED
ATTED

THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! YOU'RE LIKE THE LEGENDARY MAGI!
Wow!
EH ..?
SIGH
LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO BREAK THEM
Next time I'd better be ready to defend myself from fallout
MIEL IT'S NORMALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DESTROY MAGIC ITEMS WITH MAGIC. UNLESS YOU RE ABLE TO COMMAND DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF MAGIC POWER THAT YOU RE USING
And you broke two staff!
I SEE...SO THIS IS WHY PRINCE RADIAN WANTED TO USE YOU
YOU CAN CALL UP A HUGE AMOUNT OF POWER EVEN AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
STILL FOR HIM TO COUNT ON SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HER OWN POWER
I SUPPOSE HE MUST HAVE FAITH IN YOU
FWISH
FWOOO
THAT'S RIGHT I DO
RADI?!
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU I KNOW ABOUT IT THANKS TO A LITTLE SPELL I PUT ON YOU...
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I D SEE YOU USE THIS MUCH MAGIC POWER!

MIEL... I'M PARTICIPATING IN THE CEREMONY TO PROTECT PRINCE CITRONA.
I'M GOING TO USE MY POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE CEREMONY IS A SAFE SUCCESS, NO MATTER WHO LEADS IT.
AH
EH...? WAIT A SECOND! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
EH?
THAT'S WHAT I PROMISED PRINCE RADIAN.
AS LONG AS THE CEREMONY GOES SMOOTHLY
I DON'T HAVE TO BE THE MAIN EVENT
THE "SHOWDOWN" AND "ANTAGONISM" BETWEEN YOU TWO WAS ONLY IN THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO GOSSIPED
BUT I THOUGHT IT BEST TO LET IT BE UNTIL YOU PROVED THEM WRONG
AND HE AGREED TO BELIEVE IN THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ME
AFTER HEARING YOU TALK ABOUT SEIGLE MIEL I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO LISTEN SO I ASKED HIM A FAVOR

IF THE OLD ARISTOCRATS WANT TO SEE CITRONA'S POWER, LET THEM
IF THEY WANT TO SEE SEIGLE'S EXPERTISE, I'LL SHOW THEM.
IF THEY WISH FOR ME TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE WHOLE AFFAIR, I WILL, RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL
BUT I ALSO KNOW YOUR POWER, MIEL, SO I'M GOING TO USE YOU.
I'M GOING TO USE THIS CEREMONY TO SHOWCASE EVERYONE'S POWER
NO MATTER HOW UNCONVENTIONAL PEOPLE SAY IT IS.
THEN WHAT'S THIS BUSINESS ABOUT US BEING RIVALS...?
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW PEOPLE SEE US
I wonder what they would say if I flew over to see them
AND YOUR APOLOGY FOR "FORCING ME INTO OPPOSING SEIGLE"...
YOU MUST HAVE HATED HEARING PEOPLE TALK ABOUT YOU AND SEIGLE LIKE THAT
I took my eye off them
Yes but Why didn't you tell me?
Well it did help you muster enthusiasm for practicing with the staff didn't it?
.....

THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY.
NOTHING HAD CHANGED AS BEFORE. ONLY, PEOPLE WHO WERE SKILLED AT HANDLING THE STAFFS WOULD PARTICIPATE
I HAVE TO DO A GOOD JOB DEMON STRATING MY POWER HERE.
. TO PROVE THAT RADI WAS RIGHT IN NOMINATING ME AS WELL AS VALIDATE ALL THE EFFORT I PUT INTO IT
WHISPER
MIEL
MIEL!
WHISPER
?!
CITRO.
SHHH!

I HAD HIM GO OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE
SO I COULD TALK TO YOU ONE-ON-ONE
WHERE IS SEIGLE?
He said he found the spell in ancient literature
SEIGLE'S FANTASTIC! HE PUT UP A BARRIER THAT FITS ME LIKE CLOTHES AND CAN MOVE AROUND!
It moves around me like galaxies!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
DON'T YOU NEED TO BE IN A BARRIER?
This is the Crown wing!
IT'S ALL RIGHT
MIEL
ACTUALLY, I KNOW EVERYTHING
WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT ME
THAT NO MATTER WHAT I DO I CAN'T USE MAGIC
BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO INVOLVE ME WITH MAGIC
IF THOSE PEOPLE DON'T SEE WHAT HAPPENS ONCE, THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND
—THAT JUST GETTING CLOSE TO THE CROWN DAMAGES MY HEALTH AND BREAKS DOWN THE BARRIER

I'M GOING TO HELP MY BROTHER OUT BY SHOWING THEM.
RADIAN IS THE BEST PERSON FOR THE JOB OF CONDUCTING THE CEREMONY.
THEN WHAT'S SEIGLE GOING TO DO...?
FOR JUST A MOMENT, HE'S GOING TO RAISE MY BARRIER. AFTER THAT, HE'LL USE HIS SKILLS...
...TO PROTECT EVERYTHING.
AH... SO THAT'S WHAT RADI MEANT BY SHOWING THE PEOPLE YOUR "POWER" AND SEIGLE'S "EXPERTISE"...
THAT'S SEIGLE'S AND MY BROTHER'S PLAN.
BUT ACTUALLY, I...
I WANT THIS POWER OF MINE TO SERVE A PURPOSE!
IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT A MIRACLE COULD HAPPEN!
EVEN IF JUST MY FEELINGS GET THROUGH, THAT'LL BE ENOUGH. DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MIEL?

"YOU CAN DO WHAT I WANT TO DO, MIEL."
GASP...
"SEIGLE TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE
50 YEARS AGO THE VIOLETTE FAMILY WASN'T EXPELLED FROM THE PALACE. THEY LEFT OF THEIR OWN VOLITION
YOUR ANCESTOR TRIED TO COMPENSATE FOR THE PERSON WHO FAILED AT THE CEREMONY. BUT COULDN'T
STILL, HE FELT RESPONSIBLE."
"YOUR ANCESTOR WAS CALLED A MAGI BECAUSE HE POSSESSED ENOUGH POWER TO CARRY HIS OWN WEIGHT AS WELL AS HELP OTHERS AT THE SAME TIME.
I'M POSITIVE YOU HAVE THE POWER OF THE MAGI, TOO, MIEL."
I DON'T KNOW IF HIS WORDS HAVE ENCOURAGED ME OR PUT EVEN MORE PRESSURE ON
BUT I KNOW HOW PRINCE CITRONA FEELS
IF I CAN DO IT —!!
THE NEXT APPLICANT IS MIEL VIOLETTE

BUZZ
BUZZ
SQUEEZE
WHI
ZZZ
GLO WWW
OHHHH
HERS IS THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT WE'VE SEEN SO FAR!
SHE'S GUARANTEED TO BE A MEMBER.
OH!
BUZZ
PRINCE CITRONA AND SEIGLE!
WHO'S GOING TO TAKE THE TEST FIRST?
THE LAST TWO APPLICANTS ARE SEIGLE CHIFFONNADE AND PRINCE NADIAN.
BUZZ

BUZZ
FOO
YOUR HIGHNESS I M GOING TO LIFT YOUR BARRIER ONLY FOR A MOMENT MAKE AS IF YOU RE GOING TO TAKE THE STAFF BUT PLEASE DON T TOUCH IT
OKAY
ISN T SEIGLE GOING TO DO IT?!
ARE WE GOING TO GET TO SEE PRINCE CITRONA S POWER?
PRINCE CITRONA IS WALKING IN FRONT?!
RUST
LE
SNAD
GLINT
ROARRR
WHAT IS THIS POWER?!
WAAA
!!

UNHH... WAIT..
PRINCE CITRONA, THIS WAY!
GRAB
EH?!
HUMMMM
THUNK
CITRONA!
PRINCE CITRONA, PLEASE LET GO OF IT! NOW!
ROAAARRR
KYAAAA
WAAAA

HUMMMMM
MIEL ... TAKE IT!
Prince Cedric
FWOOSH
BARRIER!
TING
Rrrr

PRINCE RADIAN! WHAT JUST HAPPENED CAUSED A CRACK IN THE BARRIER!
LET'S REINFORCE THE BARRIER RIGHT NOW!
FWOOO
BOTH FULLY CHARGED... LOOK. NEITHER OF THE LIGHTS HAVE EVEN DIMMED!
HEY, SHE'S GOT TWO STAFFS!
IS PRINCE CITRONA OKAY?!
YES, SIR!
SEIGLE! GET CITRONA TO SAFETY!
SOME-BODY GIVE ME A STAFF!
PRACTI-TIONERS, POUR YOUR ENERGIES INTO THE LOCATION!
WHOOSH
LET EVERY PERSON IN THE LAND OF SAVARIN BE HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS!
AND IN THE NAME OF PEACE AND POWER, THAT DOESN'T OVER-REACH

TIME TO POUR IN ALL OF MY POWER ALONG WITH PRINCE CITRONA'S FEELINGS!
FORM A BARRIER!
LET THE PROTECTIVE POWER OF THE CROWN
FLASH!!

MM
HUH? DID I PASS OUT?
?!
EH?!
RADI?! WHAT -_-?!
YOU'RE CONSCIOUS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU PULLED!
FLASH

I-I-I'M SORRY
UM PUT ME DOWN PEOPLE WILL TALK AGAIN...
LET THEM TALK I ENCOURAGE IT OTHERWISE WHY WOULD I'VE CARRIED YOU OUT OF THE HALL LIKE THIS?
EH...?
NO ONE'LL COMPLAIN NOW
AS A MATTER OF FACT, STARTING TOMORROW I'LL BET YOU GET A FLOOD OF MARRIAGE PROPOSALS
WHY?!
?!
PEOPLE SAW YOU HANDLE THE POWER OF TWO STAFFS AT THE CEREMONY
ALREADY THEY'RE CLAMORING OVER WHAT THEY SAY IS THE SECOND COMING OF THE "LEGENDARY MAGI"!
EH?!
WAS IT THAT BIG A DEAL?
OKAY, HERE WE ARE LOOK!
YES. IN FACT, THE RESULTS WERE MUCH MORE THAN WERE NECESSARY TO CONVINCE THEM OF YOUR WORTH. I DON'T CARE THOUGH I'M NOT LETTING ANYONE ELSE HAVE YOU
FLASH
FLASH
W-WHERE ARE WE? IT'S SO BRIGHT
THE REINFORCING OF THE BARRIER WAS A BIG SUCCESS.

WHOAAA... THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL. ARE THEY SHOOTING STARS?
WHATEVER THEY ARE THEY'RE FLOATING IN THE NEW BARRIER. BUT THEY CAN ONLY BE SEEN FROM THE PALACE BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO THE CROWN.
I PUT YOU THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES RECENTLY ...
I'm sorry
OH
IT'S FINE NOW.
BESIDES, I THINK, THANKS TO THAT, I GOT STRONGER IN SOME WAYS
CHUCKLE
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I FINALLY FEEL A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENT ... ABOUT MAGIC.
HUH...? YOU'VE SURE GOTTEN MORE POSITIVE.

MIEL
Waaa
THANK YOU.
AND IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU, RAD!
SOME TIME AGO, YOU GRANTED ME PERMISSION TO "BEND YOUR EAR", BUT
CAN I SAY SOME-THING SELFISH?
..AND JUST YOUR BEING AROUND MAKES ME HAPPY...
I LOVE YOU

SO I WANT YOU TO STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER
THAT'S NOT SELFISH.
I CAME THIS FAR BECAUSE I LONGED TO BE WITH YOU
I HOPE THAT TEN YEARS FROM NOW, AFTER THE NEXT BARRIER IS PUT UP
WE'LL BE ABLE TO COME HERE AGAIN AND LOOK UP AT THE "STARS"

THE CROWN OF LAPIS LAZULI [2] / THE END

THIS IS THE END-OF-VOLUME AFTERWORD.

THANK YOU FOR READING TO THE VERY END
THIS IS THE FINAL VOLUME OF "THE LAPIS LAZULI CROWN".

EVENTS KIND OF RAN DOUBLE TIME IN THIS SECOND VOLUME, BUT I HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT

THERE ARE SOME PLACES IN THE FINAL EPISODE WHERE I WISH I HAD A FEW MORE PAGES, BUT AT LEAST I GOT TO FINISH MY STORY WITHIN THE ALLOTTED PAGE COUNT THE SCENES THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT IN FEATURED OTHER CHARACTERS BUT TO SORT OF MAKE UP FOR THAT, I WROTE AND DREW A FEW "SINGLE PANELS" TO SHOW WHERE I WAS GOING WITH THOSE "LOST SCENES" I'LL LET YOUR IMAGINATION FILL IN THE REST HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

AGAIN, I'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS SERIES IF YOU WANT TO SHARE, SEND ME A MISSIVE TO:

NATSUNA KAWASE
C/O CMX
888 PROSPECT STREET SUITE 240
LA JOLLA, CA 92104

THE PICTURE BELOW SHOWS RADI (14) AND CITRONA (10) ENGROSSED IN A HANDICRAFT

"RENEE, WHAT COURSE ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE? IF YOU'RE AIMING TO BE AN ADVANCED MAGIC-USER, YOU'D BETTER START STUDYING NOW. I'LL TUTOR YOU AND YOU CAN PAY ME FOR IT ONCE YOU BECOME SUCCESSFUL."

"DON'T SUBMIT TO SARA'S GREED. YOU CAN BECOME A MAGIC-USER AT THE PALACE WITHOUT THE ADVANCED QUALIFICATION."

"TRUE, BUT I TUTORED YOU AND YOU ENDED UP AT THE PALACE, MIEL."

"...I WANT TO BECOME A MAGIC TEACHER TO CHILDREN. I THINK I'M GOING TO HELP MOTHER WITH HER CRAM SCHOOL. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, YOU TWO..."

(WATCHING THEM STAND OUT IN EVERYTHING THEY DO HAS CONVINCED ME THAT "NORMAL" IS THE WAY TO GO.)

"I'VE GOTTEN STRONGER. MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO GO TO TOWN WITH YOU, EVENTUALLY, RADIAN."

"YOU COULD EVEN GO NOW! WE'LL JUST HAVE SEIGLE PUT A BARRIER AROUND YOU FIRST. I KNOW! NEXT TIME, WE'LL ALL GO! WE CAN SNEAK OUT OF THE PALACE AND I'LL GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE TOWN!"

"REALLY? YAYYY! ♡"

"I'M SURE YOU TWO THINK YOU'LL GET MY COOPERATION, BUT IF IT'S BOTH OF YOU TOGETHER, YOU CAN FORGET THE SECRECY. IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE."

"IN THAT CASE, SIEG WILL GET PERMISSION FOR US." "I CAN'T WAIT!"

AS CITRONA GROWS HE GETS A LITTLE PHYSICALLY STRONGER

"Y'KNOW, I LIKE STRONG-WILLED GIRLS."

"WELL, ROSETTE'S OFF LIMITS!...HEY, HOW'D YOU KNOW SHE'S STRONG-WILLED?"

"WHAT DO YOU WANT, AN APOLOGY FOR MY PERSONALITY?!"

"I OFTEN GO TO THE BUREAU OF MEDICAL CARE, WHERE SHE TREATS ME FOR INJURIES."

"HUH? YOU'VE NEVER TREATED ***ME...***"

"YOU NEVER GET HURT, SEIGLE. AND IF YOU DID, YOU COULD HEAL YOURSELF, RIGHT?"

ROSETTE'S AT THE BUREAU OF MEDICAL CARE. SEIGLE IS GOING TO TAKE THE TEST TO BECOME AN ADVANCED LEVEL MAGIC-USER. MAYBE DERRIS WILL GET MORE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES AS HE GETS OLDER.

I DID A LOT OF PLANNING FOR THIS SERIES AND BY THE END, I HAD AN OVERFLOWING FILE OF MEMOS. I WASN'T ABLE TO USE EVERYTHING, BUT I HAD A GOOD TIME WRITING AND DRAWING "CROWN". I HOPE ALL OF YOU WHO READ THESE VOLUMES ALSO ENJOYED VISITING THIS WORLD. FROM HERE ON OUT, I'M GOING TO KEEP TRYING TO MAKE EVEN MORE INTERESTING STORIES. I'LL DO MY BEST, SO PLEASE KEEP READING.

FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO THANK MY EDITOR, EVERYONE WHO HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS SERIES, CYURIN ASAMIN, YOU'RE ALWAYS A HUGE HELP!), AND ALL OF YOU READERS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!! HATSUNA KAWASE

STORY RECORDS 5 / THE END